

EXCEL SAGA

26



story and art by RIKDO KOSHI

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(EXCEL SAGA BONUS SECTION)

STORY AND ART BY
RIKDO KOSHI

ENGLISH ADAPTATION BY
CARL GUSTAV HORN

TRANSLATION
KYOKO KONDO

LETTERING & TOUCH-UP
AVRIL AVERILL

GRAPHIC DESIGNER
NOZOMI AKASHI

EDITOR
CARL GUSTAV HORN

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EXCEL SAGA

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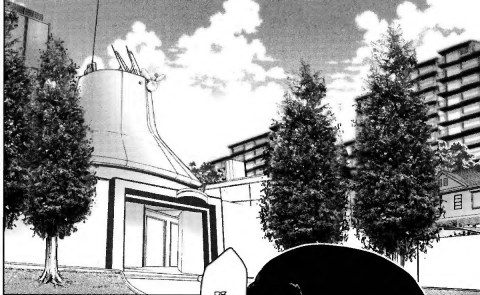
PARENTAL ADVISORY

EXCEL SAGA is rated **T+** for Older Teen and is recommended for ages 16 and up. This volume contains fantasy violence and mature situations.

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MISSION 1
HOT AND FADING
MEMORIES





DR.
KABAPU...



OH,
DID
I SAY
THAT?

HM
?

...THE
OTHER
DAY,
YOU
SAID
THAT
I
LOOK
LIKE
MY
FATHER.



YES,
YOUR
EXPRES-
SIONS...

IT
SEEMED
ODD, SINCE
I'D ALWAYS
THOUGHT
YOU TOOK
MORE
AFTER
YOUR
MOTHER...



SO I KNOW
ALMOST
NOTHING
ABOUT HIS
ACTUAL
PERSONALITY.

OTHER THAN
THAT, ALL I
KNOW ABOUT
HIM ARE HIS
RESEARCH
ACCOMPLISHMENTS...
WHICH ONLY GAVE
ME A SENSE OF
DEFEAT, THE MORE
I UNDERSTOOD
THEM.

MY
IMAGE
OF MY
FATHER,
TENMANGU,
IS BASED
ALMOST
ENTIRELY
ON WHAT
I'VE HEARD
FROM
OTHER
PEOPLE.



U HMM...

NO

YOU
KNOW
HOW
SHE
IS.



YOU
WERE
STILL
YOUNG
WHEN YOUR
FATHER
DIS-
APPEARED.

DIDN'T
MAMA
TELL
YOU
ANYTHING?

THAT'S
WHY I'D
JUST LIKE
TO ASK YOU...
WHAT KIND
OF PERSON
MY
FATHER
WAS.



IT'S
BECAUSE,
OR,
KABAFU...

YOU
MIGHT
BE
WONDERING
WHY I'M
ASKING
YOU
THIS
QUESTION
NOW...



ONE DOES NOT HAVE TO BE SHERLOCK HOLMES,

OH, WHAT MAKES YOU SAY THAT?



...YOU LOOK AS THOUGH YOU'VE GIVEN UP.



IT WAS 30 YEARS AGO WHEN I ASKED HIM TO START DEVELOPMENT OF A HUMANOID MACHINE...

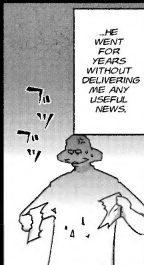
TENMANGU SHIOUJI...



ALL I KNEW ABOUT HIM WAS THAT HE ONLY WORKED ON THE THINGS THAT HE FOUND INTERESTING.



AND MY GUESS IS YOU'VE GIVEN UP...
...BECAUSE YOU THINK I CAN'T DEFEAT MY FATHER.



HE
WENT
FOR
YEARS
WITHOUT
DELIVERING
ME ANY
USEFUL
NEWS.



Off
to
South
America



EVEN
AFTER I
PROVIDED
HIM WITH
FUNDING
AND THE
CORE AS
RESEARCH
MATERIAL...

DOCTOR!

I SAY!



HE
BECAME
ABSORBED
RESEARCHING
A FIELD THAT
HARDLY SEEMED
RELEVANT,
AND WOULD
SOMETIMES
WITHDRAW FOR
SIX MONTHS
OR MORE.

OH,
HE'S
JUST THAT
WAY.

IT
MUST
BE
HARD...

HE
WAS
A
PERSON
OF
MOODS.



YES...
IT WAS
JUST A
SHORT
WHILE
AFTER
YOU
WERE
BORN, IT
BECAME
CLEAR.



BUT
ONE
DAY...



I TOOK HIS
ATTITUDE AS
INSINCERE,
AND IT
ALMOST
MADE ME
START
LOOKING
FOR A
REPLACE-
MENT.



...THAT
THE
SITUATION
HAD
CHANGED.

...HE
SEEMED
HAUNTED
BY
SOME-
THING.

NOW
THAT
I
THINK
BACK...

YOUR
WIFE'S
IN THE
HOSPITAL,
ISN'T
SHE..?

WHY
DONT
YOU
VISIT
HER..?

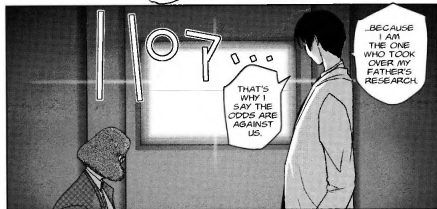


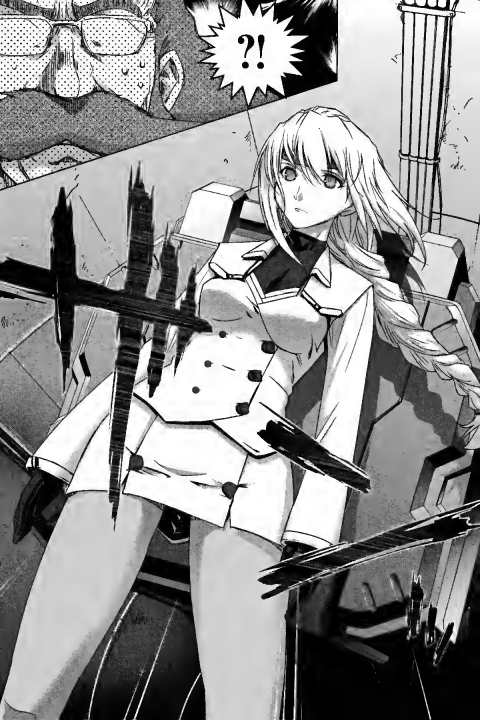
EVERY
COMPONENT
USED IN
THE
MACHINE
SEEMED
YEARS
AHEAD
OF
ITS
TIME.

..IN THE
SPACE OF
LESS THAN
A YEAR,
HE
MANAGED
TO
DEVELOP
THE BODY
OF
ROFFON-
MATSU
BASED
ON THE
CORE.

DESPITE
ALL THE
LACK OF
PROGRESS
UP TO
THAT
POINT...













THIS
IS
PROBABLY
THE FIRST
TIME...



...WE'LL BE
OBLIGED TO
HAVE A REAL
FIGHT WITHOUT
SHOWING OUR
CARDS TO
EACH OTHER.



YOU
LOOK
LIKE
HIM
AGAIN...



OH
WELL...
IT'S IN
THE
BLOOD.





YOU WANT ME TO DANCE?

Guard!

GUARD!

GUARD!

GUARD!

EH?

I, Elgala, will dance.

NO, I WANT YOU TO DO SOMETHING!

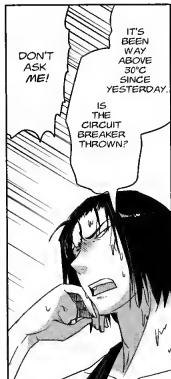
DO WHAT?

DO SOMETHING ABOUT THIS HEAT !!





...I,
ELGALA,
DO NOT
WISH TO
BRAG,
BUT I
KNOW
ALMOST
NOTHING
ABOUT
THIS
BASE!



DON'T
ASK
ME!

IT'S
BEEN
WAY
ABOVE
30°C
SINCE
YESTERDAY.

IS
THE
CIRCUIT
BREAKER
THROWN?



Sur if
it isn't
workin'...
wu're in
trouble,
mind.

...Ah reckon
there must
be, cos if
thez nee air-
conditioning,
th' air wivven't
hev any way
t' circulate.



I
HAVE
NO
IDEA.

ANYWAY,
WE
CAN'T
STAND
THIS
ANY-
MORE...
IS
THERE
A
TEMP-
ERATURE
CONTROL
SYSTEM?



Aye,
but
not
me-
type,
like.

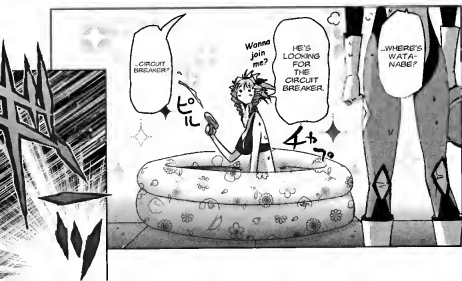
AND
THE
GUARD
IS
HOT,
TOO!

SHE'S
DROPPED
ABOUT
FIVE
POINTS
OF
CHC.



There gonna be a great lot o' powaaa switches sumwheres. Huv ya not evah seen them?















...IT'S A
BET ON
HOW
ELABORATELY
EACH
MACHINE'S
STRENGTH
IS
UPGRADED.

I
KNOW
NISHIKI'S
WEAKNESS
WELL,
TOO.



IT'S
SO
HOT...

...AND
IT'S
GOING
UP,
RIGHT?
IT'S NOT
JUST MY
IMAGI-
NATION.



4

Me
body
tends
t' retain
heat.

...ALL
RIGHT.



Forgive
us man.
Ah've
gorra
rest.

YOU
OKAY
THERE,
MAN...?

THIS IS
LIKE ONE
OF THESE
LOCKED-
CONTENT
GAMES
THAT
ARE
POPULAR
THESE
DAYS...

...MAYBE
IT'LL
OPEN
IF I
PAY
WITH
POINTS...?

NO
MATTER
HOW
MUCH
WE
ROAM,
WE'RE
TRAPPED...

...BUT
WHAT
DID
I
EXPECT?

JUST
ANOTHER
DEAD
END...







Muh



Nuh...



Huh

Guh









OUR
SECOND
BET
BEGINS...
NOW.

END MISSION 1



EXCEL 5月6月

4ty



THE
MAIN
BODY
OF
SOME-
THING...

THE
CENTER
OF
SOME-
THING...

"CORE"...

KABAPU
WAS
CALLING
THIS THE
"CORE."

THIS
PLACE
IS...



I
SEE.



I
SEE.



I
SEE.





NOT
WHAT
I
EXPECTED
?

HOW
DISAP-
POINTING.

THEY'RE
JUST
LOSERS.



IT'S
STARTING
TO
AFFECT
THE
MAINTENANCE
HERE..

...BUT
ALTHOUGH
THEY'RE
LOSERS,
THEY STILL
FIGHT
BACK...
IT'S A
GREAT
BURDEN
ON US.



It's
soooo
hot.





NUDE !

NAKED !

BARE !

NUDE !

BEREFT
OF
ATTIRE...!



Ugh.



Wheyy oye,
It's a hot
day doon here,
this one, but



MISSION 2
REDDISH AND BLUISH GREEN



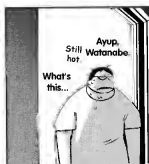
...I
CAN'T
LOOK
DIRECTLY
AT HER,
SO IT'S
HARD TO
MAKE A
DIAGNOSIS!

...IS IT
REALLY
HEALTHY
TO
CONVALESC
IN SUCH
A SCI-FI
CONTAINER...?



I'VE
HEARD
THAT
YOU'RE
NOT
FEELING
WELL,
BUT...

...ARE
YOU
ALL
RIGHT,
MISS
AYASUGI?



Ayup,
Still
hot,
Watanabe.

What's
this...



...NO!
THAT'S
MORAL
COWARDICE,
MAN!

MAYBE
JUST A
QUICK
PEEK...?



ta

**DON'T
LOOK
!!**











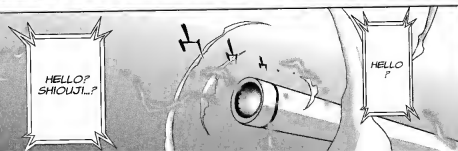
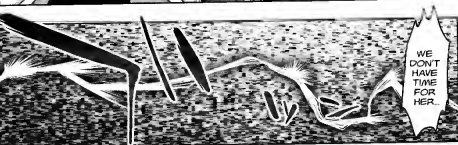
What
a
drag.

It's tough
for Mistake!
as she now
has to fight
a machine with
the core, even
though it's
damaged.

IN TRUTH,
I HAVE NO
IDEA HOW
LONG SHE
CAN
MAINTAIN
HER
CURRENT
SITUATION.

...YES,
THAT'S
RIGHT.
UNFOR-
TUNATELY,
SHE IS
SEVERELY
DAMAGED.

BUT...





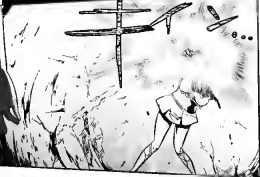
So
I'll
return
it

This
is what
Golyon-
chu
has left
behind.



He
left this
toy in the
middle of the
design phase
because
he lost
interest...

Golyon
has made
such a
dangerous
object out of
it.





PERHAPS
IT'S KABAPI'S
INFLUENCE.
I DIDN'T
EXPECT HE
WOULD USE
A DIFFERENT
MACHINE...
AND YET THAT
WASN'T SO
EFFECTIVE
AFTER
ALL.

GOJYOU
SHOULDN'T
HAVE
PURSUED
SUCH A
ROUGH
STRATEGY...
LEAVING
THINGS TO
CHANCE.



BUT IT
SEEMS
LIKE
THAT
WAS
INSPIRING.

OH.



WHAT
I
NEED
IS...

ANYWAY...
HE
REALLY
HATES TO
RETURN
TO HIS
TRUE
SELF,
HUH...?





THE
TRUE
YOU.

...THE
OWNER
OF
THIS
GENUINE
CORE.





IN
THE
SAME
WAY
THAT WE
CANNOT
CREATE
A HUMAN
BEING..

WHAT
WAS
PRODUCED
WAS A
MASS OF
POWER
UNINHABITED
BY THE
CORE.

PROBABLY..
WE WERE
NOT
MEANT
TO MAKE
DUPLICATES
OF
OURSELVES.



DID
NOTHING
REALLY
INHABIT
IT?

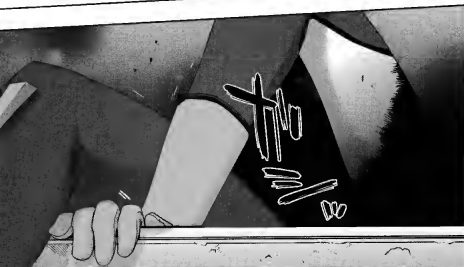
NOTHING
?

..NOTHING
INHABITS
AN
IMITATION.

NOTHING
INHABITS








...SOMETHING
INHABITS
THE
DUPLICATE...

IF...

...THAT'D
BE
OUR
REAL...

...Uh-
oh.





I AM
NUMBER
TWO OF
ACROSS,
A SECRET
SOCIETY
LED BY
LORD IL
PALAZZO!
I AM HIS
RIGHT
ARM AND
SHIELD,
LOYAL
STAFFER,
APPARENT
PRESIDENT,
AND
ASPIRING
LOVER!

I'M
EXCEL!









I
HAVE
RETURN-
ED!!

MY
LORD
!!



I
TOOK
THE
LIBERTY OF
SUPPOSING
THAT YOU
ARE IN
TROUBLE!

IT MAY
BE THE
HEIGHT OF
HUBRIS THAT
I, WHO AM
MERELY
PLURIPOTENT,
SHOULD
PRESUME TO
RESCUE YOU,
WHO ARE
OMNIPOTENT.

...BUT
EQUIPPED
WITH
THIS
BODY,
MY
IMPUDENCE
IS
INVINCIBLE!!





OH...

...DEAR.

I
MEAN,
WE
JUST DON'T
HAVE ANY
OTHER
STRATEGIES.

YES,
WE'VE
REACHED
THE END
OF OUR
ROPE...



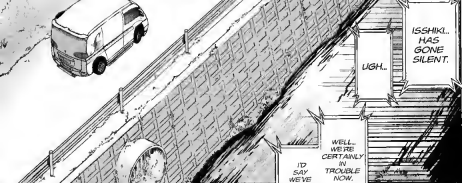
...DAD.

NASTY
TRICKS
ARE
ALL I'VE
GOT LEFT
TO PLAY
ON YOU...

END MISSION 2



EXCEL 5月6月







MISSION 3 FIRST EXPERIENCE







THE
ENTRANCE
CONNECTING
TO THE
FACILITY
HAS
OPENED
AGAIN.

...HAS
GONE
SILENT.

NISHIKI...



I
KNOW,
BUT...

NO,
NOW
I
REMEM-
BER.

IL
FALAZZO'S
SUB-
ORDINATE,
CORRECT?

SHE
MUST
BE
JUST A
HUMAN
BEING...

WHO...

...IS
SHE?



...I
THOUGHT
SHE
LOOKED
LIKE...

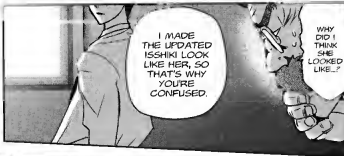
BUT,
YES,
THAT
TIME,
TOO...



THE
FIRST
TIME I
MET HER
WAS A
COINCIDENCE



NO,
THAT'S
NOT
WHAT I
MEAN.



I MADE
THE UPDATED
ISSHIKI LOOK
LIKE HER, SO
THAT'S WHY
YOU'RE
CONFUSED.

WHY
DID I
THINK
SHE
LOOKED
LIKE...?



...



UMI
WAS
THE ONLY
PERSON
WHO
CARED
ABOUT
HER...

...IF
IT'S ANY
CONSOLATION,
I DIDN'T SEE
HER AS AN
IMPORTANT
FIGURE UNTIL
RECENTLY
EITHER.

SHE'S THE
ONE WHO
BROKE
OPEN THE
ENTRANCE
THAT WAS
LOCKED
FROM
INSIDE.

THE
CORE
HAS
VANISHED.

DOCTOR..

BUT
THAT
CAN'T
BE
HER

I
KNOW
WHO
CAN
DO
THINGS
LIKE
THAT.

I HATE
TO
ADMIT IT..
BUT
IN ALL
LIKELIHOOD
NEITHER
OUR
SPECUL-
ATIONS
NOR OUR
LOGIC ARE
A MATCH
FOR MY
FATHER.

IT
GOES
LIKE
THIS--
"THE ONE
USING HIS
BRAIN
WILL
LOSE."

I
DON'T
KNOW
WHAT
YOU
KNOW
EITHER,
BUT..

...I DON'T
KNOW HOW
MUCH YOU
KNOW, OR
WHAT KIND
OF THINGS
YOU KNOW..
BUT I'VE
OBSERVED
HOW THIS
GAME
SEEMS
TO GO.



...
PROBABLY,
MY
FATHER
HAS
ALWAYS
BEEN
NEAR
US.

...TENMANGU
IS
THERE.

...YOU
SEEM
TO BE
VERY
SURE
THAT...



BUT
I CAN
GUESS
WHAT
HAPPENED...

THAT'S
WHAT I
WOULD
LIKE TO
ASK MY
FATHER
MYSELF.

...WHAT
DO
YOU
MEAN?





HAH! I DON'T
CARE FOR
THE FIT
OR STYLING
OF THE
ENEMY'S
ATTIRE...

...BUT IT
SEEMS
STURDY,
AT
LEAST.





... T H A N K S !



I
FEEL
LIKE
I'M IN
PRETTY
GOOD
SHAPE
NOW.

EVEN
MY
HAIR'S
CLEAN...



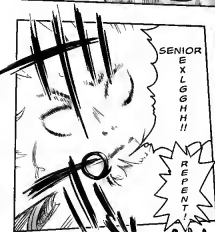
HEH,
I JUST
NOTICED.
IT'S NOT
IN
HERE!

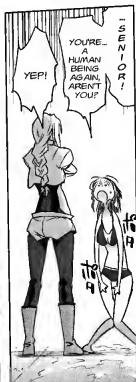


SO
MUCH
FOR
COOLING
DOWN
IN THE
POOL...

...IT'S
LIKE
A HOT
SPRINGS
NOW.

AH...
FINALLY
A COOL
RUSH OF
AIR...







HOW
COULD
YOU DO
THAT
TO
ME?!

SEE, HER
PUNCHES
HURT,
BUT
THEY'RE
NOT
DEADLY!



YES!
HOW
WONDER-
FUL!

I
CAN
FEEL
IT!

FLESH
COMPRESSING
UNDER MY
KNUCKLES,
THE
SATISFYING
THUMP OF
IMPACT
ON
BONE...



WELL,
WHAT
DO
YOU
THINK
I CAN
DO?!

YOU
CAN
BRAG
ABOUT
HOW
DUMB
YOU
ARE.

IN THE
FIRST
PLACE,
YOU'RE
IN NO
POSITION
TO
CRITICIZE
ME!



I DON'T
MEAN TO
BRAG, BUT
I, ELGALA,
DON'T EVEN
KNOW
WHAT'S
GOING ON
ANYMORE.

WHAT-
ARE
YOU
TALKING
ABOUT?

HOW
CAN
YOU
LET ME
HURT
YOU AS
MUCH AS
I WANT?

IDIOT!

I DON'T KNOW.

WE'LL HAVE A COMPLAINT SESSION LATER ON, AT WHICH I WILL HIT YOU FURTHER. WHERE'S HYATT?

YOU'LL HAVE TO ADMIT THAT WAS A STINGING REBUKE TO GENERATIONS OF SCIENCE FICTION WRITERS!

WHAT KIND OF LEADERSHIP DID YOU DISPLAY? BECOMING A ROBOT MADE YOU EVEN LESS LOGICAL, SENIOR!

HURRY UP!

TEN MINUTES... NO. CAN YOU GIVE ME SEVEN MINUTES?

WHAT ABOUT THE BATTERY? CAN YOU GET THAT GOING?

SHOUJI! IS THE TRANSFER WORKING...?

Reckon it must be this way.

Ah cannot stand it much langaa

WHERE'S THE EXIT?

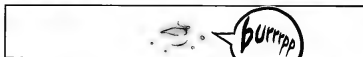
出口

I'M NOT FEELING VERY SECURE IN THIS...













...IT'S
JUST
MY GUESS,
BUT I THINK
HE BECAME
INVOLVED
FROM AT
LEAST THE
MIDDLE OF
EVENTS.

ARE YOU
SAYING
THAT YOUR
FATHER
CAUSED
EVERYTHING
THAT'S
HAPPENED
SO FAR?

...EH?
?



DO
YOU...
HAVE
ANY
STRATEGY
IN MIND?

...YOU
SEEM
TO BE
HAVING
FUN.

NO.



BUT
THE
RESULT
OF THIS
STRATEGY
WILL NOT
PENALIZE
ME...

THE
ONLY
THING
I CARE
ABOUT
IS YOUR
STAFF'S
SAFETY.

How,
man!



I
GUESS
MY
STRATEGY
NOW IS
HARASSMENT.

I'M
DOING
THIS IN
REVENGE.
JUST AS I
SAID, I'M
ONLY OUT
TO PLAY A
TRICK ON
MY
FATHER.

BUT
I CAN
TAKE A
CAREFREE
ATTITUDE.





I
HAVE
AN
ANSWER
FOR YOU,
DOCTOR.

WHY
DON'T YOU
CONTEMPLATE
THE MEANING
OF THAT A
MOMENT.



...SO
CASUALLY?

WHY
COULD HE
GET RID
OF THE
CORE...



AND CAN
YOU GUESS
WHAT THAT
MIGHT
BE...?

THERE
MUST BE
SOMETHING
EVEN MORE
VALUABLE
THAN THE
CORE...MORE
INTERESTING
TO HIM.



NAH,
I'M
FINE.

YOU
LOOKED
LIKE YOU'VE
STOPPED...
IS THERE
ANY PROBLEM
WITH YOUR
PHYSICAL
FUNCTIONS...?

WHERE
HAVE
YOU
BEEN?



HEY.

...IWATA
!!





SHOUJI!

WELL,
THAT
SHOULD
BE
ALL
RIGHT.



„WATA
AREN'T
YOU..“

YOU
ARE..



WE
TRIED.
I'VE
HAD
IT.

I
DON'T
KNOW
HOW TO
DEAL
WITH RAW
DEALS
ANYMORE.

IF
THAT'S
THE
CASE,
LET'S
GO.

H-HEY...

EVERYONE
ELSE
SHOULD
GET OUT
OF THE
PLACE.

EVEN
IN THE
WORST-CASE
SCENARIO,
WATA
WILL BE
FINE.



„IS
IT MY
IMAGINATION,
OR DID IT
JUST
GET
COOLER..?“

„ANYWAY,
HOW DO
YOU KNOW
HE'S
PRESENT?“
OUR LORD
HAS BEEN
AWAY A
LOT
RECENTLY..

IT'S
SO
HOT..

WE
ARE
ABOUT
TO
ENTER
THE
PRESENCE
OF
OUR LORD!



ALL
RIGHT,
STRAIGHTEN
UP!



IT'S
BEEN
A WHILE
SINCE WE
ALL GOT
TOGETHER.

...LORD
IL
PALANNO..





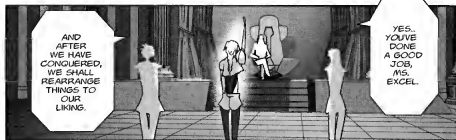
"MANY THINGS HAVE OCCURRED, BUT HOW IS OUR WORLD CONQUEST PROCEEDING?"

"YES, SIR!"



"MS. EXCEL."

"I'M GLAD THAT EVERYONE LOOKS FINE."



"AND AFTER WE HAVE CONQUERED, WE SHALL REARRANGE THINGS TO OUR LIKING."

"YES... YOU'VE DONE A GOOD JOB, MS. EXCEL."



"I CAN REWARD YOU ALL FOR YOUR EFFORTS."

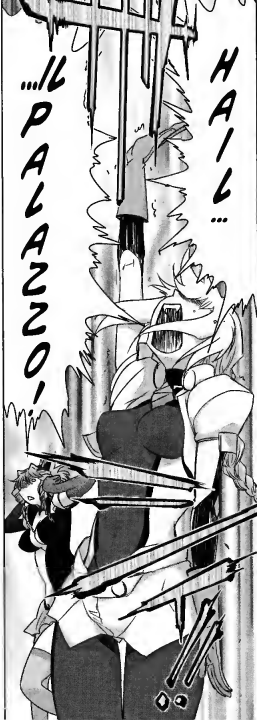


"...LET'S SEIZE IT IN OUR HANDS."

"THIS WONDERFUL WORLD..."

HAIL...

...!! PALAZZO!



A BIT
OVERCOME
BY
EMOTION,
AREN'T
YOU?

ZZO.

IS
THAT
SUPPOSED
TO
BE
HUMILITY?

I, EXCEL,
WHO HAS
CLUMSY
AND
LAME
SUBORD-
INATES...

GOOD.
I'M
COUNTING
ON
YOU.

...WILL
ELIMINATE
EVERYTHING
AND
ANYTHING
THAT DARES
MOCK YOU,
FROM
GALACTIC
SUPERCLUSTERS
TO
QUANTUM
DUST!

...IN
YOUR
IMAGE...

EVEN
IF IT'S
MADE...

?



**FORGIVE
ME FOR
RAISING
MY HAND
TO LORD
IL
PALAZZO...**

**...EVEN
IF IT'S
ONLY A
FIGURE
WHO
LOOKS
LIKE
HIM!!**

END MISSION 3

It's scary to
play the role
of a hero...



EXCEL 5月6月





...NOW
WHY
WOULD
YOU
DO
THIS...?

HMM...

MISSION 4
ANNOUNCEMENT:
PLANS TO CONQUER
THE CITY HAVE BEEN CANCELLED



I USED
TO BE
ABLE TO
KEEP HER
AWAY JUST
BY WRITING
HIS NAME
UPON THE
GROUND...!



I
CAN'T
BELIEVE
IT...!

LORD IL PALAZZO



AT
NIGHT
SHE WOULD
RISE AND
KOWTOW
BEFORE
HIM IN
HER
SLEEP...!



...SHE'S
THE ONE
WHO LEAPT
INTO ROARING
FLAME MERELY
TO RESCUE
HER (POORLY
CARVED)
STATUE OF
OUR
LORD...!



"WONDER-
FUL
WORLD"
...?!

AND
NOW...
SHE
BLAS-
PHEMES
AGAINST
HIS
VERY...



THIS
WORLD...

YOU
SAY
WE
SHALL
SEIZE THIS
WONDERFUL
WORLD...?



HOW
CAN A
THIEF
SPEAK
WITH SUCH
IMPUDENCE...?



WHEN
HE
SPOKE
THOSE
WORDS...
IT WAS
IN
SORROW!

...IS...

...CORRUPT
!!



HOW
DARE
YOU
PROFANE
THEM
WITH
YOUR
SHABBY,
CHEERFUL...



PERHAPS
THIS
IS THE
"COSPLAY"
IN WHICH
THE
CITIZENS
INDULGE...?

GOUGE
OUT
THOSE
USELESS
EYES AND
REPLACE
THEM WITH
GASHAPON
CAPSULES!

NO...
NOT
REALLY...



HE IS
LORD IL
PALAZZO'S
IMPOSTOR!
CAN'T YOU
TELL...?

SENIOR!
WHAT'S
GOING
ON?
AND, what
are
you
doing...?

E H H H H H H H ?



YOU
USE
HARSH
WORDS...

セシ!

WHOMEVER
HE IS, HE'S
BUT A LOWLY
VILLAIN WHO
SEEKS TO
STEAL THE
WORLD FROM
US WHEN
WE'RE,
LIKE, THIS
CLOSE TO
CONQUERING
IT!



I
WANTED
TO
SHOW A
SPIRIT OF
SERVICE,
BUT...
I SEE.

...YOU
CARE
ABOUT
THINGS
I DIDN'T
ANTICIPATE.





BUT
ANYWAY...



Aye, ah
reckon
ah've
been a
hikikomori
for sur laang,
it would be
a shame t'
quit noo.

ARE YOU
TAKING
ALL
THE
STUFF
HOME?!

IT
FEELS
LIKE WE'VE
BEEN SHUT
AWAY FOR
A LONG
TIME.



'Eez geet
straang
an' seems
level-headed.
Dee y' not
suppose 'e
can handle
eezsel?

...THAT
FOOL
IWATA..
Is he
going
to be
okay?



...THE
TEMPER-
ATURE
IS ALSO
DROPPING...

I FELT
HEAVY
IN THE
HEAD
EARLIER,
BUT IT'S
GONE
NOW...



FINALLY...
THE
EXIT!!



I'M GLAD
EVERYONE
IS SAFE.



SOME-
THING
HAS
BEEN
SETTLED.

IT
FEELS
LIKE...



CAN
YOU
LEAVE
THERE
WITHOUT
ANY
REGRETS...?

DR.
KABAPUS
FEELING A
LITTLE
DEPRESSED
RIGHT NOW,
AND HE
SAID IT'S
ALL RIGHT
IF YOU
WANT
TO GO
HOME



...SO
DON'T
LEAVE
ANYTHING
BEHIND.



I JUST
SAY IT
BECAUSE
YOU'LL
PROBABLY
NEVER
GO BACK
TO THAT
PLACE
AGAIN.

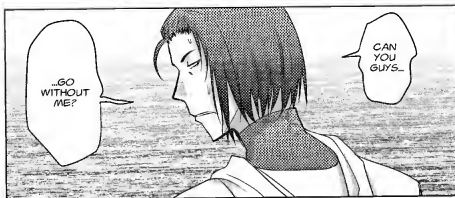
NO,
NOT
AT
ALL.

ARE
YOU
IMPLYING
SOME-
THING?

...









IT'S
NOT
LIKE
THAT...!

I'M
JUST...

WHAT
?



CURED
OF THE
DELUSIONS
OF YOUR
ROMANTIC
JUNIOR-
HIGH-
SCHOOL-
STUDENT-
LIKE
BRAIN!!!

Ye say
such a
delicate
thing sur
bluntly,
Matsuya.



YOUR
LINGERING
AFFECTION
WAS
REKINDLED
AFTER YOU
SAW HER IN
THE NUDE...?

I
FEEL
UNEASY...



...SEE
YOU
!!

...I
JUST
FEEL
LIKE I
NEED
TO DO
SOMETHING!



I
DON'T
KNOW
WHAT
IT IS,
BUT...

It's surprisin'
that 'e wuzn't
convinced aftaa
bein' telt this
much...



...Well, it
caanat
be helped
in this
situation,
but.



I
CAN'T
STAY
CALM,
AND I
HATE
IT.



I
FEEL
TERRIBLE
ABOUT
MYSELF...

What's
wrang
wi'
yu?

But ye...
ye said
taa much,
Matsuya.



...THAT
SOMETHING
UNSCIENTIFIC
IS
HAPPENING
TO ME.



I
DONT
WANT
TO
ADMIT...



IT MAY
BE TOO
LATE TO
SAY THIS,
BUT THIS
ISNT THE
JOB OF
LOCAL
GOVERNMENT
EMPLOYEES

ANYWAY,
LET'S
GO
HOME.

...I'M
NOT
SURE
IF I AM
SANE.

THE
SOUNDS I
CAN HEAR
BESIDES
OUR COMMUNI-
CATION.





YOU
SEEM
UNINTER-
ESTED

I
DONT
UNDER
STAND



IT SEEMS
LIKE YOUR
STAFF WILL
BE ABLE TO
LEAVE
WITHOUT
ANY
TROUBLE.

I
SEE...



...WHY
THEM
?

IT
MAY BE
STRANGE
TO ASK YOU
THIS NOW,
BUT, DR.
KABAPU...



GRADUALLY,
I STARTED
DREAMING
ABOUT
A
FUNDAMENTAL
SOLUTION.

AND
ALL
THAT
TIME,
FIGHTING
BOREDOM.

A
LONG...
LONG
TIME.

I'VE
PROTECTED
THIS
LAND
FOR A
LONG
TIME.



IT'S OBVIOUS
THAT YOU MUST
HAVE BEEN
SELECTIVE ABOUT
CHOOSING THIS
TEAM. THINK OF
ALL THE EFFORT
WE'VE PUT JUST
INTO TREATING
IWATA...

I...



OF COURSE, I KNEW THAT THAT WOULD WAKE UP THE UNDERGROUND FACILITY...



FOR THIS PURPOSE, I'VE SPENT YEARS AND YEARS ACTIVATING THE CORE.

...AND GETTING RID OF IT.

I EVEN THOUGHT OF OPENING THE FORBIDDEN DOOR...



...WHAT IS THE "IT" INSIDE THE DOOR THAT YOU WANT TO GET RID OF...?

SO...



SOME-THING THAT WILL DESTROY THE WORLD...

...





...HMM.



THIS IS UNDENI-
ABLE...

I am
in
shock
to
admit
this.

SHE
PERHAPS
DOES
HAVE A
POINT...

HA!
YOU
ASSUME
HIS FORM,
BUT YOU
DON'T
EVEN
KNOW
HIS
BODY
LANGUAGE!



I'M
NOT
AN
IM-
POSTOR.

HOW
RUDE
OF
YOU.



ALL
RIGHT,
HOW
ABOUT
THIS?

MS.
EXCEL...
YOU
HAVE
DONE A
GOOD
JOB.



THIS
IS
HARD.

「ハッ」



POSITIVE,
YES
BUT
MORE
NOBLE!!

IS HE
MORE
LIKE
THIS?

「ハッ」



...LIKE
THAT.

YEAH...













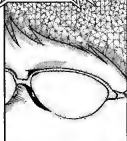
I WAS CERTAINLY LET DOWN TO LOSE THEM ALL.

THE OTHER ONE WAS LOST TOO, IN ORDER TO RESCUE UMI...

I HAD NO CHOICE BUT TO DESTROY HER.

I WAS RELUCTANT TO DO IT, BUT...

Nishiki-chan...



WHERE ARE YOU GOING...?

Ah ran away from harm for three days when me mam brurk me figures.

WAIT A MINUTE SUMI YOSHI?

I DID HARASS HIM.

AND sur did ye complain



...Ah
wivven't
be a
man.

If I
divven't
mek any
complaint
about
this...



No...

...Why
is
everyone...

I
DON'T
GET IT
AT
ALL.







...WHY
DON'T
YOU
RETURN
IT TO THE
ORIGINAL
OWNER?



UH...
THE
PLACE
YOU'RE IN
NOW...

I
MEAN...



...I
REALIZED
THAT AT
THIS RATE...
WE'LL BE
IN BIG
TROUBLE.

SINCE
THAT
ONE
ENTERED
INSIDE
OF ME...



HMM.
I SEE...

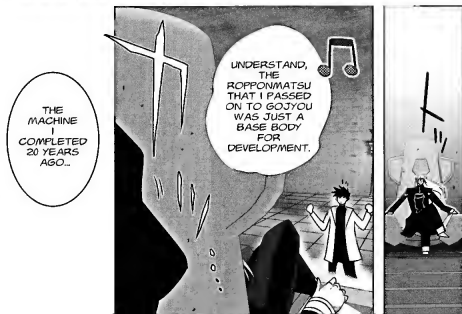
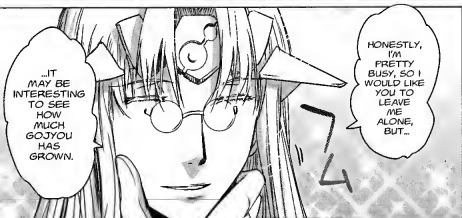


NO.
OTHER
WAY
AROUND.

...DID
THAT
ONE
PUT
ANYTHING
IN YOUR
HEAD?









FOR
SANSHIKI...
ROPPON-
MATSU
III.

...YES.

END MISSION 4



EXCEL五月



WE
WERE...

...WITH
THE
DOCTOR--
NO...



...I HAD
THOUGHT
WE WERE
CAUGHT IN
THE FRICTION
BETWEEN THE
DOCTOR AND
IL PALAZZO...



BUT...

THE
ONE
I--

WHAT
APPEARED
?

...YES.

FOR
SANSHIKI...
ROPPON-
MATSU
III.

WELL,
IT
APPEARED.

SHIOWJI...

_WHAT'S
GOING
ON
INSIDE...?



...SINCE
WHEN?

MIWA
IS...?

WHAT?
YOU
MAKE
IT
SOUND
LIKE A
FAIRY
TALE...

THE
ONE I
WANTED
HAS BEEN
RIGHT IN
FRONT
OF ME...





MISSION 5
EVERYONE HAS THEIR
OWN COURAGE?



NO
WONDER
SHE
WAS
SCARY...



47



I'M
NOT
EVEN
IN HIS
LEAGUE.



...I DIDN'T
KNOW HE
WAS DOING
THE SAME
THING
WE DID.

WELL...
IF I CALL
IT THE
SAME THING,
THAT MAY
BE SOUR
GRAPES
ON MY PART.

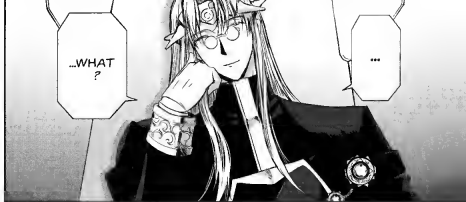


OH,
BOY...

MIWA...
REALLY?

THIS
IS...







MS.
ELGALA...

WILL
YOU
GET
UP,
SENIOR
...?



„HE
WAS
REALLY
LORD
IL
PALAZZO...”

I
WANTED
TO
SAVE
LORD IL
PALAZZO,
BUT...



„HE
WAS
REALLY
LORD
IL
PALAZZO...

I
WANTED
TO
SAVE
LORD IL
PALAZZO,
BUT...

OUR LORD IS...

I'M THE ONE WHO SHOULD BE IN A DAZE, NOT YOU! YOU TRIED TO DROWN ME...

OUR LORD IS...

I'M THE ONE WHO SHOULD BE IN A DAZE, NOT YOU! YOU TRIED TO DROWN ME...

I'M
GLAD
EVERYTHING
IS
OPERATING
NORMALLY
FOR YOU.

WHAT A
WONDERFUL
GIFT IT MUST
BE FOR
PEOPLE TO
BE UNSURE
WHETHER
YOU'RE
INSULTING
THEM, OR
JUST LOST
IN SPACE.

I
THOUGHT
YOU
WOULD
SIMPLY
OBEY HIM
WITHOUT
THINKING,
MS.
ELGALA.

I'M
GLAD
EVERYTHING
IS
OPERATING
NORMALLY
FOR YOU.

WHAT A
WONDERFUL
GIFT IT MUST
BE FOR
PEOPLE TO
BE UNSURE
WHETHER
YOU'RE
INSULTING
THEM, OR
JUST LOST
IN SPACE.

J
THOUGHT
YOU
WOULD
SIMPLY
OBEY HIM
WITHOUT
THINKING,
MS.
ELGALA.

I'M
GLAD
EVERYTHING
IS
OPERATING
NORMALLY
FOR YOU.

WHAT A
WONDERFUL
GIFT IT MUST
BE FOR
PEOPLE TO
BE UNSURE
WHETHER
YOU'RE
INSULTING
THEM, OR
JUST LOST
IN SPACE.

J
THOUGHT
YOU
WOULD
SIMPLY
OBEY HIM
WITHOUT
THINKING,
MS.
ELGALA.

IT'S SUR-PRISING...

SEE THE!

b b b b b b b

IT'S SUR-PRISING...

SEE THE!

b b b b b b b



FROM
THE
BEGINNING,
I DIDN'T
THINK SUCH
AN IDEA
WAS
ACCEPTABLE...

..HE SAID
HE WOULD
CANCEL OUR
PLANS FOR
WORLD
CONQUEST,
WHICH DENIES
ME MY
ROSE-STREWN
FUTURE
AS AN
ARISTOCRAT!



YES.
ME
TOO.

..LOOK,
EVEN I,
ELGALA,
NOTICED
THE
DIFFERENCE
IN LORD IL
PALAZZO'S
MANNER.



...THIS
MOLLUSK
CALLED
SENIOR EXCEL,
WHO IS
ENTIRELY TOO
ACCEPTING
OF THE
SITUATION!!

BUT
WHAT
FRUSTRATES
ME THE
MOST
IS...



RAGE!



THIS
IS
WHAT
LORD IL
PALAZZO
DESIRES..

SNAP
OUT
OF IT AND
EXPLAIN WHY
EVERYTHING'S
GETTING
TOSSED
OUT!!





**YOU!
DRIVE!
ME!
TO!
ASTOUND-
ING!
FEATS!
OF!
ONE!
ARMED!
STRENGTH!
SENIOR!**



...ACTUALLY,
I'M
LOOKING
FOR ONE
OF MY
FRIENDS...

UM...
NO...

WE'RE
IN THE
MIDDLE
OF
SOME-
THING,
YOU
KNOW?

...OH, IT'S
YOU. YOU'RE
FREE TO GO,
YOU KNOW.
DID YOU
FORGET ANY
OF YOUR
PERSONAL
BELONGINGS?



"BALLOON-
BREASTED"...

HE
WAS IN
A VOLATILE
SITUATION
WITH THE
STRANGE
BALLOON-
BREASTED
WOMAN. WE
DON'T KNOW
WHAT'S
GOING
ON!

THE
SPIKY-HAIRED
CITIZEN?
HE'S IN
LORD IL
PALAZZO'S
THRONE
CHAMBER.

HM
?

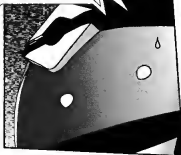
IWATA.



THAT'S THE EQUIPMENT FOR OBSERVING HOW THINGS WILL GO. I DON'T KNOW WHAT CARDS THEY HOLD... HENCE THE SUIT.

WHAT'S THIS, PROF?

ALL OF A SUDDEN



....?

ROPPON-MATSU AND SANSHIKI...

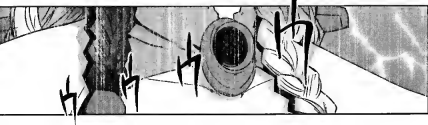
DON'T GO EASY ON HER. STRUCTURALLY, SHE'S THE SAME AS YOU.

I DON'T HAVE TIME TO ASK YOU WHY YOU'VE BEEN ACTING LIKE THIS. BUT SHE'S GOING TO BE AN OBSTACLE FOR YOU REGARDLESS

SHE'S NOT MY MOTHER, SHE'S ROPPON-MATSU SANSHIKI.

I HAVE NO INTENTION TO FIGHT MIWA, PROFESSOR.





HEY!
GLASSES-
MON!





YOUR FATHER?

WHAT KIND OF DUMB FATHER IS THAT?!



IT SEEMS AS IF MY FATHER HAS CAUSED YOU A LOT OF TROUBLE.



I DON'T WANT TO WAKE UP FEELING ILL ANYMORE.

HEY... WHY DON'T WE AT LEAST GET OUT OF HERE TOGETHER?



What is/he talking about!..?



WHAT'S GOING ON?! ALL OF A SUDDEN I'M IN THE MIDDLE OF YOUR FAMILY SOAP OPERA!!

THIS IS A BIT OF A SURPRISE TO ME, TOO, MY DEAR.



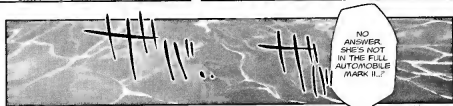
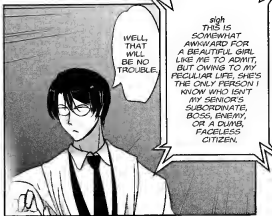
UM... CAN YOU PUT A GIRL NAMED UMI ON THE PHONE...?

UMI? WHY?



AN INTEL-LECTUALLY SATISFYING RESPONSE THAT DOES NOTHING TO ADDRESS OUR PSYCHO-LOGICAL TRAUMA!

...MY GUESS IS THAT, JUST LIKE ME, HE HAS NO INTEREST IN THINGS UNRELATED TO HIS PURPOSE.







Howay...

...eh
?!

This
wuz th'
place...

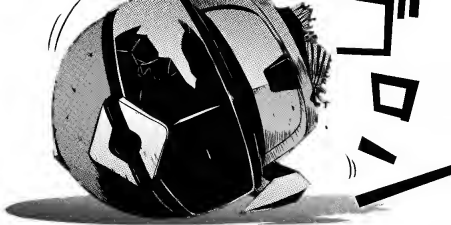


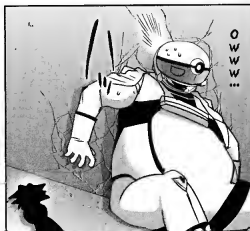
owww...



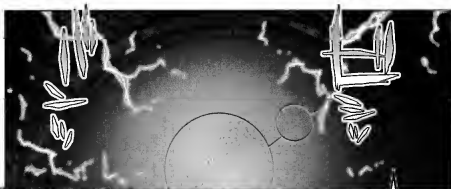
Ah'd hev
been deed
wi'oot me
helmet...

What just
lamped
us, but...?

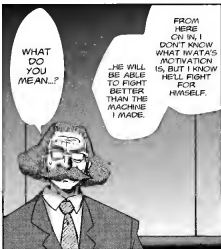












...WELL, IT
MAY HAVE
ORIGINALLY
BEEN
SOMETHING
LIKE THAT.

NO...

IS
THAT
SOMETHING
LIKE
ARTIFICIAL
INTELLIGENCE?

THE
WILL
OF
THE
CORE?

THE
WILL
OF
THE
CORE...

IVE
HEARD
THAT THE
CORE WAS
ORIGINALLY
AN EXISTENCE
UNITED WITH A
CONSCIOUS
MIND.

IS THAT A
METAPHOR,
DOCTOR?
SOMETHING
ALONG THE
LINES OF
GOD EXISTS
IN THE MIND
OF EACH
OF US...?

SOME-
THING
EACH
OF US
FUNDA-
MENTALLY
POSSESSES.

IVE
HEARD
THAT
THE
CORE
IS...

WHAT
IS THE
CORE,
THEN?

I
DONT
UNDER-
STAND
AT ALL.





I ALSO
HATE TO
ADMIT THIS
BUT I, ELGALA,
NATURALLY
POSSESS
THE
PERSONALITY
OF A MINOR
CHARACTER!

I, ELGALA,
DO NOT KNOW
WHAT I'M DOING
HERE...WHY THE
HELL DO YOU
THINK I'M STILL
HANGING
AROUND?!



I'M
DIFFERENT
FROM
SOMEONE
WHO
CHANGED
DIRECTION
FOR A
WOMAN.

SO
WHY...?

MATSUYA!
I THOUGHT
YOU
LEFT.

WELL,
AT LEAST
YOU'RE
AWARE
OF IT.
I'LL
TRY
NO
MORE.



...SUMI-
YOSHI
?

Ah
protected
'er...

Ah diiven't
cross th'
last line...

YOU
CAME
BACK,
TOO...?

AND
FURTHER-
MORE,
IT LOOKS
LIKE YOU
ACTUALLY
ACCOM-
PLISHED
SOME-
THING!

YOU'RE
ALL
BACK
AND
WERE NO
BETTER
OFF.

UM, IF
YOUVE
JUST
COME TO
WHINE,
I CAN
DO THAT.

...An feel
like am
standin
on th
edge o a
precipice,
do

NOT
ME,
YET..

FOR
MY
DUTY.

IF IT
WAS
FOR THAT
LOOSE
CHANGE,
I CONFIS-
CATED IT
FOR
ACROSS.

BY
THE
WAY...
WHY DID
YOU
COME
BACK,
MATSUYA?

I
DIDNT
THINK
THAT
SHE
WAS
SO
STUBBORN..

...I
COULDN'T
LEAVE
HER ALONE...
WHEN SHE
CANT SEE THE
SITUATION
AROUND
HER.

I
HAD
NO
CHOICE.



Erm...

WHAT'S
WRONG
...?

UM.

...TERIHA-
SAN
!!

END MISSION 5

NICE
TO
MEET
YOU,
TOO.
OW...

NICE
TO
MEET
YOU...
OW.



EXCEL五月



TERIHA!

TERIHA!
ARE
YOU
ALL
RIGHT...?

4-☆
NO SALE

IT'S NOT A
SUMMARY.

YOU
WOULD
GET A
ZERO
ON A
LANG-
UAGE
TEST

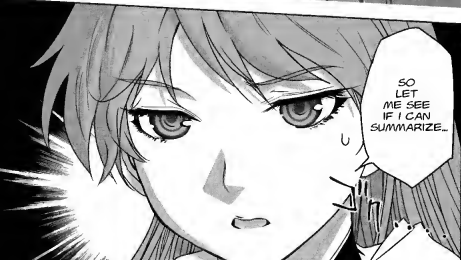
WELL, TO
SUMMARIZE
WHAT
HAPPENED,
MANY
THINGS
HAPPENED.

...SHE
WAS ALL
RECOVERED
JUST A
LITTLE
WHILE
AGO..!

WHAT
HAPPENED
TO HER?

MISSION 6 OPEN THE DOOR









...WE
TOO ARE
SHOCKED
BY HOW
MUCH
LORD IL
PALAZZO
HAS
CHANGED...

BOMBER WOMAN!



...BEFORE,
HE
DROPPED
US INTO AN
OUBLIETTE
WHILE LAUGHING,
BUT NOW I FEEL
LIKE HE WOULD
ORDER US TO
SELF-DESTRUCT
WHILE FAKING
TEARS.

Deez any
'un hev a
good boss,
that's
what
ahm
wundaain'.

...IS
THAT
A STEP
FORWARD
OR
BACK-
WARD?



HE
SUDDENLY
BECAME...
A...
WORLDLY
PERSON...

I
DON'T
KNOW
WHAT HE
WAS LIKE
BEFORE,
BUT HOW
DID HE
CHANGE?



I'm
LISTENING.

SHOUT!
DO YOU
WANT
TO JOIN
IN ON
THIS
CONVERSATION?!



Ah!

SPEAKING
OF
WHICH...

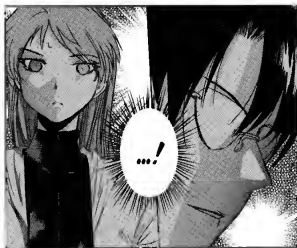


...TENMANGU
SHIOUJI...

I HAVE TO
ADMIT, IT
SEEMS LIKE
THE PERSON
WHO NOW CALLS
HIMSELF IL
PALAZZO
IS MY FATHER...



...IS
"IL
PALAZZO"
A
HUMAN
BEING?



I
APOLOGIZE
FOR THE
TROUBLE MY
FAMILY HAS
CAUSED.

I,
ELGALA,
STILL DO
NOT
UNDERSTAND!
ARE YOU
SAYING THAT
OUR LORD
IS ALSO
YOUR
FATHER..?

SO IS
HE AN
IMPOSTOR,
OR
NOT...?!

WELL,
I'LL NEED
EVIDENCE
TO
ANSWER
YOUR
QUESTION,
SO
I WOULD
LIKE
TO ASK
YOU
THIS...

SHIOUJI'S
FATHER..?



AFTER
ALL, IL
PALAZZO
IS THE
ABSOLUTE
BEING
FOR THEM..

AH
A
FIGURATIVE
ANSWER



ALTHOUGH
ENDOWED
WITH SUPREME
MASCULINITY,
HE IS NO MERE
MAN! DON'T
CONSIDER,
LADIES AND
GENTLEMEN,
THE ONE, THE
ONLY LORD IL
PALAZZO, TO
BE A
HUMAN
BEING!

AND
THAT'S
LORD IL
PALAZZO!



THAT..

HMM..
THAT
WAS A
QUESTION
TO VERIFY
MEANS
AND
METHOD..

..THAT
CAN'T
BE.

TO
EVEN
THINK
THAT...

..PUTTING
ASIDE HOW
THINGS HAVE
CHANGED,
LET'S THINK
ABOUT
WHAT MY
FATHER'S
OBJECTIVE
IS.

WE'VE
NEVER
THOUGHT
SUCH A
BLASPHE-
MOUS
THING..



I'M
SORRY,
PERHAPS
I SHOULD
REPHRASE
THE
QUESTION,
THEN.

WHAT I
MEANT
TO ASK
IS IF
THERE
IS A
POSSIBILITY
THAT HE IS
A ROBOT..
LIKE THE
ROFFON-
MATSUS
YOU HAVE
SEEN.



..ER, I DON'T
THINK HE'S
INTERESTED
IN THINGS
LIKE THAT
TO
BEGIN
WITH.

HOW
DARE
YOU
INSULT
OUR LIFE'S
ENDEAVOR,
GLASS-
MON!

"Mister."
Okay.
That's
progress.

"THINGS
LIKE
THAT?"

IF
I
MAY...



BUT
HE
CANCELLED
OUR WORLD
CONQUEST
PLAN..

I
GUESS
HE
WANTS TO
CONQUER
THE
WORLD,
TOO.

TO ATTEMPT
TO ADDRESS
YOUR EARLIER
QUESTION..IN
ALL HONESTY,
I DON'T KNOW
WHY MY FATHER
WOULD WANT
TO ASSUME
THE IDENTITY
OF, MR., ER..
IL PALAZZO.



DON'T
TALK AS
THOUGH
WE WERE
FIRED!

Why is the
citizenry so
disrespectful
today?

FRANKLY,
YOU
GUYS
WERE
LET GO,
RIGHT?

..WHY
DON'T
WE
ALL GET
OUT
OF
HERE?



AND
UMI AND
WATANABE
BOTH CARE
ABOUT PEOPLE
ON YOUR SIDE,
SO THEY'LL
BE GLAD IF
YOU COME
ALONG
WITH US.

AS
FOR US..
SUMIYOSHI
SEEMS
TO BE
SATISFIED.

Erm, not
exactly...







...WAIT
A
MINUTE.
IWATA IS
STRUGGLING
TO FIGHT
AS HE IS
NOW...

HE
'MANAGES
TO
SURVIVE'...?



...WHO
IS
HE
FIGHTING
?!



IS HE
FIGHTING
IL
PALAZZO
...?



IS
MIWA...



...ROPPON-
MATSU
SANSHIKI
?!

THIS
IS
TOUGH.



Eh?
Shiodji's
mom is
Ropponmatsu?

Eh?

MIWA...
THAT
OLD
LADY?

WELL,
ACTUALLY,
MY FATHER
HAS BEEN
CONTROLLING
HER...

Oh,
well.



...AS I
FEARED,
HER
PERFORM-
ANCE IS
BEYOND
MY IMAGIN-
ATION.

GAIA
STEP!

YOUR
DAD WHO
CREATED
ISSHIKI 20
YEARS AGO...
DID HE
CREATE
SANSHIKI,
TOO...?



Why dee
th' newwaa
models
look oldaa?
Ah diiven't
get it.

I
MEAN
SHE
DIDN'T
LOOK
EXACTLY
NORMAL...
BUT I STILL
THOUGHT
SHE WAS A
HUMAN
BEING...

A
ROBOT
...!



I
DON'T
KNOW
WHY,
BUT...

THEN
WHY IS
IWATA
PICKING
A FIGHT
WITH
HER...?

SHE
IS A
MONSTER
COMPARED
TO IWATA
IN HIS
CURRENT
STATE.



IT
MAY
HAVE
SOMETHING
TO DO WITH
WHAT'S
BEEN
HAPPENING
TO
IWATA,
BUT...

WHY
IS
HE...?

EH...?
EH...? MIWA...?



...IT
WOULD
SEEM THAT
IWATA
WANTS IL
PALAZZO
TO RETURN
TO HIS
NORMAL
SELF.



HE
SAID..
IWATA SAID
THAT YOU
WOULD BE
IN
DANGER,
TOO.

DO
YOU
HAVE
ANY IDEAS
YOURSELF,
MISS
MATSUYA...?

I
DON'T
HAVE ANY
INFORMATION,
SO I CAN'T
SAY
ANYTHING
FOR
NOW.



AT
THIS
RATE,
OUR
SENIOR
IS...

I,
ELGALA,
DO
NOT WISH
TO FLEE,
BUT...

I AGREE
WITH THE
IDEA OF
YOUR
LEAVING
THERE.



...HIS
REASONS,
WHATEVER
THEY ARE,
SEEM TO
BE
HEROIC.

ANYWAY,
YOU
SHOULDN'T
GET
INVOLVED.



ABANDON
WATA...
-WAIT.

YOUR
SUITS
WON'T
WORK
EFFECTIVELY
IN THIS
SITUATION.



...WHAT
REMAINS
THERE IS
MERELY A
MACHINE,
YOU
KNOW?







IT IS
HIGHLY
POSSIBLE
THAT THE
CORE WE
OWNED
WAS A
FAKE.



...ANOTHER
QUESTION
CAN
BE
ANSWERED.

JUST
AS YOU
SAID, IF
THE CORE
IS THE
ONE
AND
ONLY
THING...



THAT
CAN'T
BE...

NO...



THEN
WHAT
DO
YOU
WANT...?

?!

...I FEEL
NOTHING
BUT
CURIOSITY
ABOUT WHAT'S
HAPPENING
UNDERGROUND
NOW.

BUT
SUCH
THINGS
DON'T
MATTER
TO ME,
HONESTLY...

I
WANT
SANSHIKI...
AND I
WANT TO
KNOW
HOW TO
MAKE
IT.

...WHAT
I
WANT
IS A
PERFECT
ROPPON-
MATSU.

AND
SINCE
THAT
OBJECT
HAS
APPEARED
RIGHT IN
FRONT OF
ME...I CAN'T
POSSIBLY
THINK OF
GIVING
IT UP.

ROPPONMATSU.

?





BECAUSE THAT'S WHAT OUR BOSS HAS BEEN LOOKING FOR

"WHY DO YOU ASK?"
I, ELGALA, SAID...?



YOU KNOW SOMETHING, EH?

MMM.



UM, YEAH, WHY IMPOR-TANT?

WHATEVER IT IS, IT MUST BE AN IMPORTANT PLACE









IF
YOUR
STORY
IS
TRUE...

...THEN
WHAT
MY
FATHER
WANTS
TO DO
IS...



THIS
IS
NO
GOOD,
RIGHT...?

...YOU
CAN'T
KEEP IT
UNDER
CONTROL!



...HEY!
YOU
ON THE
THRONE
OVER
THERE!



WHEN
HE WAS
LOOKING
DOWN AT
THE VIEW
FROM THE
TOP OF
A
BUILDING...



...HE
WAS
SAYING
THIS
WITH A
LAUGH!

IT
HAS
NOTHING
TO DO
WITH
ME
NOW.



I
DON'T
KNOW
WHAT HE
WANTS TO
START
OVER
AGAIN...

...BUT
I
SWEAR...

...IT
WAS
PRETTY
SCARY!!



...HE
SAID
THAT HE
SHOULD
START
OVER
AGAIN...

...WHILE
HALF-
SMILING.





BY
THE
WAY...

WE
CAN'T
ENTER
MOST
OF THE
ROOMS.

THAT'S
RIGHT.
IT'S
SO
UNFAIR.

...SO
THE
DOORS
REALLY
DO OPEN
TO HER
HAND.



NO,
IT'S
NOT.
IT'S A
DOOR.

HOW?
IT'S
A
DEAD
END.

SENIOR
EXCEL
SAID...

...THIS
IS A
DOOR.



WELL, I,
ELGALA,
AGREE
WITH
YOU
THERE...

...BUT
I DO
REMEMBER...

...THIS
DOESN'T
LOOK
LIKE A
DOOR
AT
ALL.



WHAT
HAP-
PENED?

...SHE
ONCE
TRIED
TO OPEN
THIS
DOOR.

...IT WAS GLASSES-MON'S MOTHER.

MY SENIOR YOU SHOWED YOU A DEPICTION...
it was terrible.
I, Elgale's, was much better.

WHO?

WELL, AN UNFAMILIAR WOMAN APPEARED SUDDENLY AND WE WERE DROPPED DOWN A FIT. NOT OUR NORMAL FIT, EITHER.

...THEY DON'T WANT THIS PLACE TO BE DISTURBED BY ANYONE

I WAS RIGHT...

LET'S DO THIS... WHATEVER IT IS.

YEAH. HEY, READY, SENIOR?

...IF THINGS WORK AS YOU EXPECT, THE DOOR SHOULD OPEN ONCE EXCEL TOUCHES IT, RIGHT?

HEEE...
OOOO...
OOOO...



END MISSION 6

EXCEL五月

HAIL,

IL

WE

P

PLEDGE

ETERNAL

A

LOYALTY THE

L

TO OUR CONQUEST

A

LORD! IS Z
COMPLETE! Z
!

EXCEL SAGA 27 • THE FINAL VOLUME
JANUARY 2014

SO!
LET'S
GO
HOME!

FAREWELL!

...ACCORDING TO OUR SCHEDULE!

...Smells
like
someone's
in a
pinch!



SORRY
TO CALL
YOU UP
WHEN
YOU'RE
DRUNK...

Heh
heh...

EDITOR

ARE
YOU
AWARE...



...THAT
YOU
CAN'T
HAW! SAY
HAW! "I WAS
HAW! JUST
KIDDING"
HAW! ANY-
MORE
?!?



EDITOR

...OUR SCHEDULE!



Excel Saga 26

ORIGINAL JAPANESE PRODUCTION STAFF

STORY AND ART BY
RIKOO KOSHI

PICTORIAL ASSISTANCE
UNAMU KIHAYASHIOA
TAKEPON G
CHORO
SHUNKASHUTO SUZU

EDITOR
YOSHIYUKI FUJITANI

(In Japanese alphabetical order. Honorary titles are omitted.)

Guide to *Excel Saga* 26's Sound Effects!

14.1	FX BAM (don: impact sound)
14.1	FX SWEAT (dara dara dara: sweating)
14.3	FX BUZZ BUZZ (gyaa gyaa: buzzing)
14.4	FX BAM (ban: impact sound)
14.5	FX FAN FAN (pata pata: fanning)
14.8	FX GLARE (ki: glaring)
15.1	FX CLANG CLANG CLANG CLANG (kan kon kan kon: metallic sound)
15.1	FX CLANG CLANG CLANG (chin kan chin: metallic sound)
15.1	FX TURN TURN (kura kura: turning)
15.3	FX STEAM (moua: steaming)
16.1	FX BLAST (degagaa: a blast)
16.2	FX ROAR (rooo: roaring)
16.2	FX SMOKE SMOKE (mou mou: smoke rising)
16.2	FX MUMBLE MUMBLE (butsu butsu: mumbling)
16.3	FX MUMBLE MUMBLE (butsu butsu: mumbling)
17.2	FX GLARE (ki: glaring)
18.3	FX PAINT (zuu haa: painting)
18.3	FX PAINT (zuu haa: painting)
18.4	FX DASH (da: dashing)
18.5	FX THUD (dosa: falling down)
18.1	FX SIGH (haa: sighing)
18.2	FX CLANG (pata: helmet rattling)
18.4	FX SPLASH (chapa: splashing)
18.4	FX SQUIRT (rin: water squirting)
18.5	FX CLASH (gin: clashing)
20-21	FX RAT-A-TAT (tata: gunfire barrage)
22.1	FX CLENCH (gi: clenching fist)
22.3	FX BAM (gan: impact sound)
22.3	FX SQUEAK (kake: squeaking)
22.4	FX TMP (za: stepping back)
22.5	FX ROAR (ooo: roaring)
22.5	FX BUZZ (ji: buzzing)
22.6	FX TSK (chi: clicking tongue)
23.1	FX BUZZ (ji: buzzing)
23.2	FX ROAR (oo: roaring)
23.3	FX DASH (za: dashing)
23.4	FX SWITCH (hyu: switching)
23.5	FX SWING (zen: a swing)
24.1	FX CRACK (maki: cracking)
24.1	FX GRAB (zu: grabbing)
24.2	FX CLOMP (nara: stepping back)
24.3	FX HMM (nne: humming)
25.3	FX COUGH (tefa: coughing)
25.4	FX STEAM (chawa: steaming)
25.5	FX TSK (chi: clicking tongue)
25.5	FX GULP GULP (upi upi: gulping)
25.1	FX WHEEZE (pne: wheezing)
26.3	FX TWITCH TWITCH (zo zo zo: being frustrated)
26.4	FX BAM BAM (nan nan: kicking hard)
26.5	FX SWITCH (ja: door opening)
27.1	FX CHILL (biyai: feeling chilly)
27.2	FX SHF (sue: reaching out)
27.3	FX DASH (da: dashing)

Most of Rikdo Koshi's original sound FX are left in their original Japanese in the VIZ Media edition of *Excel Saga*, exceptions being handwritten dialogue and "drawn" notes that have the character of captions. Although these sounds are all listed as "FX," they are of two types: onomatopoeia (in Japanese, *giseigo*) where the writing is used in an attempt to imitate the actual sound of something happening, and mimesis (in Japanese, *gitaigo*) where the writing is used to attempt to convey rhetorically a state, mood, or condition. Whereas the first type of FX will invariably be portrayed with kana, the second may use kana and/or kanji. One should note that there is often overlap between these two types. As always, the numbers are given in the original Japanese reading order, right-to-left.

Oubliette c/o Excel Saga
VIZ Media, LLC
P.O. Box 77010
San Francisco, CA 94107

6.1	FX GLOOMY (zunderi: being gloomy)
8.2	FX SIGH (loo: sighing)
6.3	FX SIGH (loo: sighing)
7.1	FX BUZZ BUZZ (nin nin: buzz of cicadas)
7.3	FX MUMBLE (butsu butsu: complaining)
7.5	FX TMP (cho: footsteps)
7.7	FX THUMP (dane: footsteps)
9.2	FX SIGH (loo: sighing)
9.6	FX FLASH (paa: flashing)
9.6	FX SPLASH (zapa: splashing)
10.2	FX TA-DA (zan: suddenly appearing)
11.1	FX HOWL (biyuuu: howling)
11.3	FX CLANG (pata: chair rattling)
12.1	FX WHIR (ji: whirling)
12.2	FX ROAR (oo: roaring)
12.3	FX ROAR (roooo: roaring)
13.1	FX BAM (bachi: impact sound)
13.1	FX CLANG (pata: impact sound)
13.2	FX RUMBLE (doo: rumbling)
13.2	FX TMP (za: footsteps)
13.3	FX SIGH (loo: sighing)

48.1	FX STAGGER [sare: staggering]
49.3	FX FLASH [ki: flashing]
49.4	FX FLASH [kiin: flashing]
49.6	FX CLUNK [chiri: debris falling]
49.6	FX CLUNK [chiri: debris falling]
50.2	FX RUMBLE [zazu: rumbling]
50.3	FX RUMBLE [zozozu: rumbling]
51.1	FX WHIRL [yazu: whirling]
51.2	FX ROAR [osoo: roaring]
52.4	FX PUFF [peshe: puffing]
52.4	FX KABOOM [baki: explosion]
53.3	FX RAFA-TAT [to bosu: barrage]
53.3	FX CLUNK CLUNK [chan chan chuu: bullet hitting]
53.4	FX SIZZLE [sizzling]
53.6	FX BAM [ga: clanging]
54.1	FX WHACK [din: heavy blow]
55.2	FX THUD [zafu: falling down]
55.3	FX GRAB [gashi: grabbing]
56.2	FX RUMBLE [za za za: rumbling]
56.3	FX CLANG [gashu: rattling]
56.4	FX CLUCK CLUCK [kaki kaku kakki: clucking]
57.1	FX CLOMP CLOMP [joshi ashi nashi: heavy foot-steps]
57.1	FX CLANG [gate: helmet falling down]
57.2	FX CLOMP [nashi: heavy footsteps]
57.2	FX TAP [zan: tapping]
57.3	FX SIGH [hu: sighing]
58.1	FX BAM [ga: punching]
59.1	FX WHACK [dagian: heavy blow]
60.2	FX CLENCH [gashi: clenching fist]
61.2	FX BAM [zan: punching]
61.2	FX SWISH [baki: moving fast]
61.3	FX BUZZ [zazu: buzzing]
62.1	FX RUMBLE [gogozu: rumbling]
62.2	FX RUMBLE [dadada: rumbling]
63.1	FX CRACK [koku poro: joint cracking]
63.1	FX CRACK [ponbin: joint cracking]
63.2	FX CRACK CRACK [koku koku koku: joint cracking]
63.3	FX GASP [hu: gasping]
63.4	FX SWISH [gashi: speeding off]
63.6	FX POUND [choi choi: pounding]
63.7	FX DASH [sae: dashing]
67.2	FX TWITCH [baku: twitching]
67.4	FX FLASH [ze: flashing]
67.5	FX BUZZ BUZZ [zazo za: buzzing]
67.6	FX BUZZ [zazu: buzzing]
68.1	FX TICK [chi: computer operating]
68.1	FX WHIRL [byazu: whirling]
68.2	FX BEEP [ju: beeping]
69.2	FX TWITCH [batsu: image disappearing]
69.3	FX BUZZ [butsun butsu: sound being interrupted]
69.4	FX SHRILL [kiri: shrill noise]
72.6	FX CLANG [gashu: rattling]
70.1	FX CLOMP [za: footsteps]
70.2	FX THUMP [baku: impact sound]
77.1	FX RUSTLE [fusa: hair rustling]
77.3	FX ACHOO [kachuu: sneezing]
77.4	FX CLOMP CLOMP CLOMP [zan zan zan: heavy footsteps]
77.6	FX STEAM [mou mou: steaming]

27.3	FX TWITCH [baku: twitching]
27.6	FX DIM [boku: a dim light]
28.3	FX BUBBLE [bepu: bubbling up]
29.1	FX EH!EH! [eei: screaming]
29.2	FX HOWL [hyuu: howling]
29.2	FX KABOOM [dan dodon: sound of fireworks]
29.2	FX BAM [pasu: sound of fireworks]
29.2	FX KABOOM [dodon: sound of fireworks]
29.3	FX SCID [zazu: skidding]
30.1	FX ROAR [osooo: roaring]
30.3	FX CLENCH [giri: clenching fist]
31.1	FX CLANG [gashu: rattling]
31.1	FX FMP [byu: moving fast]
31.2	FX CLINK [kashin: clinking noise]
31.3	FX HOWL [hyuu: howling]
31.3	FX CLANG CLANG [gaku gaku: rattling]
31.4	FX WHIRL [zu: whirling]
35.1	FX TICK [chi: ticking]
35.2	FX TICK TICK [chi chichi: ticking]
35.4	FX ROAR [osooo: roaring]
38.2	FX RUMBLE [zazu: rumbling]
39.2	FX STAGGER [yazu yazu: staggering]
39.3	FX BANG [doo: drum sound]
39.4	FX DUS-A-DUS [dan dan doku doku: drum sound]
39.4	FX HWA HWA HWA [oisa oisa oisa: beat of a festival song]
40.1	FX HWA HWA HWA [oisa oisa oisa: beat of a festival song]
41.1	FX HWA [osasa: at beat of a festival song]
41.4	FX MEOW [zau: meowing]
42.2	FX ROLL [jaruu: rolling]
42.3	FX SHAKE SHAKE [gaku gaku: shaking]
42.6	FX UGH [ouku: being attacked]
42.6	FX WHACK [gashi: kicking]
43.1	FX RUSTLE [basasa: flying away]
43.1	FX TUG [zan: grabbing]
43.1	FX COUGH [gaku: coughing]
43.2	FX COUGH COUGH [gape gape: coughing]
43.4	FX ROAR [zan: roaring]
44.1-4	FX ROAR [zassan: roaring]
44.6	FX BUZZ [ji: buzzing]
44.8	FX BUZZ [jiu: buzzing]
44.8	FX GASP [hu: gasping]
45.1	FX CLANG [gashi: warning helmet]
45.1	FX CLUCK [za: adjusting helmet]
45.3	FX RAFA-TAT [zazu: barrage]
45.3	FX SWISH [zau: moving fast]
46.1	FX CLASH [gyu: clashing]
46.1	FX WHACK [daga: impact sound]
46.3	FX SNAP SNAP [baki baki: snapping sound]
46.3	FX CRACK [nashi: cracking]
47.4	FX TWITCH [batsu: being disconnected]
47.6	FX HOWL [zuu: howling]
48.3	FX HOWL [shuu: howling]
48.3	FX CLINK [chiri: clinking]
48.4	FX CLANG [che: rattling]
48.4	FX THUD [doozu: falling down]
49.1	FX SIZZLE [shuu: sizzling]
49.1	FX CRACK [baki: cracking]
49.1	FX CRACK [bikiki: cracking]

OUBLIETTE

Your EXCEL SAGA bonus section!

95.3	FX BOW [ze: bowing]	77.5	FX SIGH [hee: sighing]
95.4	FX CLOMP [ka: footsteps]	77.8	FX HOWL [goe: a wind blowing]
95.5	FX CLOMP [ka: footsteps]	78.1	FX SPLASH [dopa: splashing]
95.8	FX CLOMP CLOMP [ka ka: footsteps]	78.2	FX BAM [don: impact sound]
95.7	FX CLOMP [ka: footsteps]	78.2	FX COUGH COUGH [hehe ehe ehe gela: coughing]
98.1	FX FLASH [he: flashing]	78.2	FX COUGH [hehe: coughing]
99.2	FX SWIMS [bae: swinging a fist]	78.3	FX SPLASH [zaba: splashing]
99.3	FX WHACK [ga: impact sound]	78.4	FX SPLASH [zapa: splashing]
100.1	FX CLENCH [gite: clenching teeth]	78.4	FX SPLASH [busha: splashing]
100.2	FX RASP [gihiri: rasping sound]	78.5	FX SPLASH [zapa: splashing]
100.2	FX ROAR [gooe: roaring]	78.5	FX SPLASH [busha: splashing]
101.2	FX BULP [gaburi: gurgling]	78.6	FX POUR [zababababa: pouring water]
101.2	FX CLENCH [gi gi gi: clenching teeth]	78.6	FX COUGH COUGH [hehe gaho gaho: coughing]
102.1	FX CLENCH [gi gi gi: clenching teeth]	79.1	FX PUFF [pawa: puffing]
103.1	FX BAM [bam: impact sound]	79.1	FX SPLASH [zapa: splashing]
103.2	FX WHACK [daga: impact sound]	79.1	FX COUGH [gaboho: coughing]
103.4	FX CLOMP [ze: footsteps]	79.1	FX SPLASH [dababa: water spilling from mouth]
104.1	FX POINT [bishi: pointing]	79.2	FX DRIP DRIP [pata pata: water dripping]
104.2	FX ROAR [gooe: roaring]	79.4	FX WHACK [ga: punching]
105.1	FX DASH [doo: dashing]	80.1	FX TWIGLE [jin: twirling]
105.2	FX CLANG [gato: rattling]	80.2	FX DW [he: exclamation]
105.5	FX SIGH [hee: sighing]	80.2	FX WHACK [ga: punching]
106.4	FX SIGH [hee: sighing]	80.2	FX BAM [ga: punching]
107.1	FX TWITCH [baku: twitching]	80.4	FX GLARE [to: glaring]
107.1	FX SWISH [hya: flying fast]	81.4	FX SWISH [hya: suit disappearing]
107.1	FX GASP [ba: gasping]	82.1	FX TWITCH [ga: twitching]
107.2	FX BUZZ [zawa: buzzing]	82.3	FX SKID [zoe: stepping back]
107.2	FX TMP [chita: landing]	83.3	FX TMP [ze: footsteps]
107.3	FX SQUEAK [oyu: turning around]	83.5	FX PHEW [he: feeling relieved]
108.1	FX HMM [he: being impressed]	84.5	FX GASP [ba: gasping]
108.2	FX SQUEAK [oyu oyu: squeaking]	84.6	FX WHACK [dapa: impact sound]
108.3	FX TMP TMP TMP [piko piko piko: footsteps]	84.6	FX SPLASH [dopa: splashing]
108.4	FX TMP TMP TMP [piko piko piko: footsteps]	84.7	FX SLIDE [zurue: sliding]
108.5	FX SIGH [hee: sighing]	84.7	FX SPLASH [zapa zapa: splashing]
108.8	FX CLOMP [ka: footsteps]	85.1	FX TWITCH [paku: twitching]
109.5	FX CLATTER [ze: clattering]	85.2	FX COUGH [hehe: coughing]
110.1	FX BANG [zakyuu: being shot]	85.5	FX WHACK [dahan: kicking]
110.2	FX STAGGER [yero: staggering]	86.1	FX CLOMP CLOMP CLOMP [zame zame zame: footsteps]
110.3	FX UGH [ga: grunt]	87.3	FX THUD [doo: sitting down]
110.3	FX DW DW [sha oho: exclamations]	88.1	FX SIGH [hehe: sighing]
110.3	FX BLUNT BLUNT BLUNT [zaba zaba zaba: talking bluntly]	88.2	FX HEH [he: laughing]
110.3	FX PUFF [go: puffing]	88.4	FX CLUNK [cho: adjusting glasses]
110.4	FX COUGH [gaho: coughing]	90.1	FX DASH [do: dashing]
110.4	FX PINK PINK [bae bae: purring]	90.1	FX WAVE [hira hira: waving]
110.5	FX DASH [ze: dashing]	90.3	FX WHACK [daga: kicking]
111.3	FX SIGH [hee: sighing]	90.4	FX TWIGLE [jin jin jin: twirling]
111.4	FX CLOMP [ka: footsteps]	91.1	FX GRAB [ga: grabbing]
111.5	FX ROAR [gooe: roaring]	91.2	FX CLENCH [hi gin: clenching]
111.5	FX WHISPER [hiso hiso: whispering]	91.6	FX BAM [bishi: hitting]
111.8	FX ROAR [gooe: roaring]	91.7	FX TADA [ban: great appearance]
111.8	FX WHISPER [hiso hiso: whispering]	92.1	FX ROAR [gooe: roaring]
112.2	FX SIGH [hee: sighing]	92.4	FX TADA [dono: great appearance]
113.2	FX SIGH [hee: sighing]	93.2	FX FWIP [bishi: raising a hand]
113.4	FX TADA [dono: great appearance]	93.5	FX HAZE [oor: hazing]
114.1	FX CLANK [cha: clattering]	93.8	FX SOB [awa: sobbing]
115.1	FX GLARE [ku: glaring]	94.1	FX DRIP [he: tear dripping]
115.4	FX STRAIN [hehe: straightening up]	94.2	FX FWIP [bishi: raising a hand]
115.5	FX COUGH [hehe: clearing throat]	95.2	FX CLENCH [gite: clenching teeth]

1415	FX SWING (hucouou: swinging)	115 6	FX HEH (he sniffling)
1431	FX SWISH (hyube: moving fast)	115 7	FX ENCHANTED (hucouou: being enchanted)
1431	FX SWING (yuan: swinging)	116 1	FX FWIP (zuan: bending backward)
1441	FX CRACKLE (byababa: crackly sound)	116 2	FX GLARE (hi: glaring)
1451	FX HOWL (yuuuu: howling)	1171	FX HUM (huuu: murmur)
1451	FX WHIRL (chi chi: whirling)	1172	FX TAP (pon: tapping)
145 2	FX HOWL (zuan: howling)	1173	FX RUSTLE (hase: rustling)
146 3	FX COUGH (paboo: coughing)	119 1	FX THUD (do: stepping down)
146 6	FX HUM (muuu: murmuring)	119 3	FX TMP (ze: footstep)
1473	FX SPLASH SPLASH (zaba zaba: splashing)	119 3	FX HELLO (haruk: hailing)
1474	FX SPLASH SPLASH (zaba zaba: splashing)	119 4	FX HAH HAH HAH (ha ha ha: laughing)
1475	FX NODDIE (kyuu: girl screaming)	120 6	FX SIGH (hase: sighing)
1475	FX SPLASH (bushan basha: splashing)	1215	FX CLANK (kabo: rattling)
1481	FX THUMP THUMP (doso doso: heavy footsteps)	122 5	FX THUD (doso: falling down)
148 2	FX JANGLE (jean: jangling)	122 5	FX STAND (paku: standing up)
148 2	FX CLANK (chiu: clinking)	122 8	FX DASH (ze: dashing)
148 3	FX JANGLE (zean zean: jangling)	122 7	FX THUMP THUMP (doso doso: heavy footsteps)
148 3	FX JANGLE (zean joan: jangling)	1231	FX TA DA (do: being downcast)
148 4	FX FLASH (ka: flashing)	123 2	FX THUMP THUMP (doso doso: heavy footsteps)
1481	FX THUMP (doso: heavy footstep)	123 3	FX SIGH (hase: sighing)
149 2	FX BAM (do: impact sound)	123 3	FX THUMP THUMP (doso doso: heavy footsteps)
149 3	FX WRACK (game: impact sound)	123 4	FX TMP TMP TMP (piko piko piko: footsteps)
149 3	FX SWISH (hase: moving fast)	123 4	FX WHIRL (chi: whirling)
149 4	FX THUD (do: falling down)	1241	FX TWITCH (piko: reacting)
1501	FX ROLL (game: rolling)	124 2	FX SCRATCH (poni poni: scratching)
150 3	FX ROLL (zuan: rolling)	124 3	FX CLOMP CLOMP (zoku zoku: footsteps)
150 4	FX TWITCH (bika: twitching)	124 4	FX SHF (zuan: peeping)
150 4	FX ROLL (game: rolling)	124 6	FX SIGH (hase: sighing)
1511	FX HEH (he sniffling)	124 8	FX SCRATCH (poni poni: scratching)
151 2	FX HAH HAH HAH (ha ha ha: laughing)	125 3	FX GASP (hase: gasping)
151 3	FX CLAP CLAP (pan pan pan: clapping)	125 7	FX HUM (huuu: murmur)
151 4	FX GASP (hase: gasping)	126 2	FX GLANCE (china: a glance)
1521	FX SKID (zuan: skidding)	126 3	FX BOW (poko: bowing)
1521	FX GET (getto: grabbing)	126 4	FX BAM (do: impact sound)
152 2	FX DASH (do: dashing)	1271	FX CLENCH (ga: clenching fist)
152 4	FX NOD (hase: nodding)	127 2	FX NOD (hase: nodding)
152 5	FX SIGH (hase: sighing)	127 3	FX THUD (he: sitting down)
153 2	FX TWITCH (piko: twitching)	127 4	FX CLOMP (ka: footstep)
153 3	FX CRACK (bishi: cracking noise)	1281	FX CLOMP (ka: footstep)
153 4	FX CRACK (bishi: cracking noise)	1311	FX SPLASH SPLASH (basha basha: splashing)
153 4	FX BAM (do: impact sound)	135 1	FX CLOMP (ka: footstep)
153 6	FX FLASH (ka: flashing)	136 2	FX SMILE (nika: smiling)
153 6	FX HOWL (yuuuu: howling)	136 2	FX GLANCE (china: a glance)
1541	FX TMP (ze: footstep)	136 3	FX HEH HEH HEH (huhu: laughing)
154 2	FX THUD (zuo: impact sound)	1371	FX TMP (ze: footstep)
154 3	FX GRIN (ni: grinning)	137 3	FX FWIP (he: raising a hand)
154 4	FX UGH (zuo: grunt)	138 2	FX SALUTE (chi: saluting)
155 2	FX CHAK (ku: adjusting glasses)	138 2	FX PAINT (haha: painting)
155 6	FX UGH (zuo: grunt)	138 4	FX DASH (do: dashing)
157 2	FX GLARE (hi: glaring)	1391	FX WHEEZE WHEEZE (zoo zoo zoo: wheezing)
157 5	FX CLOMP (ka: footstep)	139 2	FX WHEEZE WHEEZE (zoo zoo, wheezing)
1581	FX GLARE (hi: glaring)	139 3	FX TUG (pon: tapping)
158 2	FX STAGGER (yuu: staggering)	139 3	FX GRAB (ga: grabbing)
158 3	FX WHEEZE WHEEZE (zoo zoo: wheezing)	139 4	FX GLARE (hi: glaring)
158 4	FX GRAB (gachi: grabbing)	1401	FX GLARE (hi: glaring)
1591	FX UGH (zuo: grunt)	140 3	FX SWING (hucouou: swinging)
159 2	FX SIGH (hase: sighing)	141 2	FX SPARKLE (bika: sparkling)
159 3	FX TMP (zuo: footstep)	141 3	FX DAZE (heo: being in a daze)
1601	FX PAINT PAINT (haha: painting)	141 4	FX GRAB (ga: grabbing)

187.8	FX RUMBLE [jooose: rumbling]
188.1	FX CLANG [kin, metallic sound]
188.1	FX BAM [don, impact sound]
188.4	FX RUMBLE [joo: rumbling]
189.1	FX CLASH [paku: clashing sound]
189.3	FX CLANG [pakuon, deer opening]
190.1	FX RUMBLE [jooose: rumbling]
190.4	FX WHEEZE WHEEZE [hu hoo: wheezing]
191.4	FX GULP [poku: gulping]
192.1	FX TUG [ge: tugging]
192.2	FX TAP [hoo: touching the door]

19.4. Get your filthy minds out of the wading pool, for she, Elgela, does not swing that way. Except when drunk.

40.1: The banners read: *suppooon*, "here-assed naked" Watanabe seems to envision her as a deity upon a *mikoshi* (palanquin) in the style of a traditional Japanese festival, carried through the streets lashed to poles borne by chanting celebrants, in this case all avatars of Watanabe. It's nice to know that his devotion to "Chihaya" has been purged of its obsessive qualities.

73.1: This is a flashback all the way to vol. 4, Mission 7, during the period Excel first lost her memory of her present self, but seemed to receive flashbacks "from a long time ago" of herself and Lord Il Palazzo. Upon coming back to her present self, Excel said in a fragmentary fashion "... At least... let me... (follow you)... ever... please forgive)... beg... you..."

77.3: Umi is indulging in the classic Japanese belief that a sneeze means that someone, somewhere, is talking about you. The late Jack Seward, writing in *Tokyo Weekender* about Japanese gestures, explained that whereas Japanese traditionally considered the belly to be the abode of one's soul (hence the opening of it for *hara-kiiri*) they felt the nose was the entranceway to it, hence the association of the nose with one's self. Seward, who died in 2010 at the age of 86, joined the Army at age 18 after the attack on Pearl Harbor; he was one of the few young Americans not of Japanese descent at that time to know any of the language, having learned from Japanese workers on his uncle's ranch in Oklahoma (before WWII, Japanese immigrants in the U.S. were strongly associated with agriculture). Beginning with the occupation forces, Seward would live in Japan for 25 years, serving in both military intelligence and the CIA. In the 1960s he began to use his knowledge of Japan to write books, ranging from paperback thrillers ("Japan was like a pot of sakiyaki spiced with nitro. If Stone didn't find the stripper the whole thing would blow.") to what was perhaps the first book on Japanese as actually used in Japan (as opposed to as used in Japanese textbooks), 1968's *Japanese in Action*. Seward, who was awarded the Order of the Sacred Treasure by the Showa Emperor in 1985, was a manga and doujinshi fan, contributing cultural articles to the former *Manga* magazine and even, at age 89,

180.2	FX GAZE [bake: being in a daze]
181.1	FX BOW [poku: bowing]
181.1	FX BAM [go: hitting each other]
181.1	FX BOW [poku: bowing]
183.1	FX WORBLE [paku paku: wobbling]
183.2	FX DAZE [pohoo: being in a daze]
183.3	FX CHING [chico: sound of a cash register]
185.1	FX ROAR [oooa: roaring]
185.2	FX GULP [poku: gulping]
186.3	FX TSK [he: feeling disgusted]
186.4	FX BLUNT [poo: talking bluntly]
187.4	FX SNATCH [baschi: snatching]
188.1	FX SIGH [hoo: sighing]
188.3	FX BAM [don, impact sound]
189.1	FX GLARE [ki: glaring]
190.1	FX HMM [new: thinking]
190.5	FX JOLT [poku: being startled]
191.1	FX GASP [hoo: gasping]
191.2	FX PANT PANT [awa awa: being in a panic]
191.4	FX SQUEAK [don: raspy voice]
191.4	FX WHOA [oto: interjection]
191.5	FX PHEW [hoo: feeling relieved]
192.2	FX FLOP [dota bota: flopping around]
192.2	FX SQUEAK [kya kya kyo: speaking]
192.3	FX BAM [don, impact sound]
192.3	FX BAM [poo: impact sound]
192.3	FX WHACK [go: impact sound]
192.5	FX TMP [chiru: landing]
192.6	FX RUMBLE [jooose: rumbling]
193.1	FX RUSTLE [hooa: wings rustling]
193.2	FX CLUNK CLUNK CLUNK [gin gin gin kin kin kin: metallic objects hitting]
194.4	FX HOP [hoo: hopping]
195.1	FX SWISH SWISH SWISH [hyu hyu hyu: flying fast]
195.2	FX TWITCH [paku: twitching]
196.3	FX GRIP [go: gripping]
197.1	FX SWING [don, swinging]
197.1	FX THUMP [bachi: flinging the object on the floor]
197.1	FX WHACK [go: impact sound]
197.2	FX ROLL [poo: rolling]
197.2	FX SPUTTER [pooon: sputtering]
197.3	FX SHAKE [poo: shaking a hand]
197.4	FX HEH [fu: laughing]
196.1	FX KLANG [paku: chair rattling]
196.3	FX SIGH [hoo: sighing]
196.3	FX UGH [go: grunt]
196.4	FX SIGH [hoo: sighing]
191.3	FX HEH HEH HEH [fu fu fu: laughing]
181.3	FX THUD [dosa: sitting down]
181.4	FX CLUMP [za: footsteps]
183.1	FX POP [fu: flashback appearing]
183.6	FX POLISH POLISH [kya kya: polishing]
184.4	FX GLARE [ki: glaring]
187.2	FX THUD [do: impact sound]
187.2	FX BAM [don: impact sound]
187.3	FX SWISH SWISH [hyu hyu: flying fast]
187.4	FX CLASH [gin: clashing sound]
187.4	FX CLASH [paku: clashing sound]
187.5	FX RUMBLE [jooose: rumbling]

138.1: Proving that Rikdo can be funny and express charm even in tiny silhouettes. Hyatt, with her limbs drawn in, pigeon-kneed gait and tilted slightly in a posture of old-fashioned ladylike reserve (as old-fashioned that Ejima Kisaki was complaining in 1717 that women no longer possessed it), followed by the exasperated, burden-beast Elgala who drags the almost two-dimensionally limp Excel, her braid trailing behind her.

141.2: It's not clear what idea exactly Hyatt thinks is unacceptable; she always seemed okay with the idea she would be in the master castle once Il Palazzo took over. Whences Excel looks forward to the power and Elgala to a luxurious lifestyle. Ha-chen rarely if ever expresses a desire for personal rewards in the service of Il Palazzo.

143.4: "Baleen-bruasted" is something, coming from Elgala, but she's of course correct. Miwa is, as they would say in Newcastle, a dead heat in the zappelin race.

147.1: The Full Automobile Merk L, of course, was introduced, together with Shiuji, in vol. 5, Mission 4.

163.3: Rikdo seems to be using a joke from a previous era here; the sound FX is the "ching" of very old-fashioned mechanical cash registers. These had no electronic readouts like modern registers, but would instead raise and lower little flags in a glass window that might read "5c" or "10c" (the sort of prices items cost back when they used mechanical cash registers ^_^). Although in the original manga, it said "Sold Out" in English, I believe what Rikdo meant to use was "NO SALE," the flag cash registers raised whenever the till was opened without a transaction; in old cartoons, the words would appear in people's eyes when they were knocked out or otherwise out of it. The last time I saw it used was in the 1980s, in episode 2 of *Police Squad!* (the TV series that inspired *The Naked Gun* movies) by which time the joke was already very retro. Maybe I shouldn't have explained it, although I think it's getting a little late for such regrets in Dublette.

166.3: For "punked out," Elgala says that Excel went *pondatsu*. The word has several meanings, in reference to an inanimate object, it can mean "piece of junk," in reference to a person, it implies clumsy or useless. This can be used as an endearing, rosy sentiment, but somehow I don't think that's the way Elgala means it.

168.1: I like how even Nishiki Piece is managing a sweatdrop here.

174.4: Iwata is ambling the building-trampling strides of Ultraman Gaia from the 1996-99 TV series of the same name created by Chizaki J. Konaka, known to anime fans as the writer of *Serial Experiments Lain*, *Texhnolyze*, and *RoboKop*.

authoring a book on how to study contemporary Japanese through porno manga ("an interesting and unusual method" read the ad copy). Them really is nothing new under the sun, is there?

78.3-6: You've got to love Excel's John the Baptist routine here, although I guess it's more Barry the Baptist from *Lock, Stock and Two Smoking Barrels*.

80.4: In the original Japanese, Excel insults (although I suppose "chemterizes" is more accurate) Elgala's intelligence by calling her a *bonkuruz*, the same term Tama, Osake and Kegun use to describe themselves in *Azwanga Daisho*. It's good to know that, despite their difficulties in high school, career opportunities yet await them at ACROSS.

103.4: *Gashapon* are, of course, the Japanese toys and collectibles ordinarily sold in capsules from vending machines, although it's possible to buy them in certain stores as well.

105.2: Although this probably doesn't need to be explained to Excel/Saga fans (what does he mean by that? ^_ ^), *Aikikomori* is the name given to the social phenomenon/moral panic of recent years of young people who withdraw from society and remain at home, avoiding either school or work. They were the subject of the manga and anime series *Welcome to the N.K.K.* in volume 18 of Excel/Saga. Miwa chided Shiuji for not wanting to go to the hot springs with her as "Mummy's little *Aikikomori*."

118.1: Junior high school is sometimes seen in Japan as a time when young people are particularly susceptible to *chanshiyo*, literally "second year junior high [i.e., eighth grade] illness," but often translated as "adolescent delusions of grandeur." It's argued that junior high is the last period before teens have to start working seriously toward college and/or their future careers, and can give free reign to fantastic or delusional personas (this is itself, of course, a romanticized view of junior high). The recent anime series *Love, Chanshiyo, and Other Delusions* from Sentai Filmworks deals with this theme.

114.1: Shiuji is alluding to the "yellow ambulance" (see "Dublette" for vol. 20, 184A).

126.5: You might think that with Japan's long martial arts traditions, a native term would be employed here, but Il Palazzo uses English loan words, asking if Iwata is striking a *suaitengu pozu*.

128.1: Now, of course, Kabapu actually *did* propose a theoretical "Ropponmetsu III" to Shiuji back in vol. 11, Mission 8, that would combine the functions of Ropponmetsu I with the weight of Ropponmetsu II. The Miwa-bet doesn't look like she's particularly lightweight, but then again, First is a lot heavier than she looks.

I once entertained the notion of shooting Rikdo-san an email with the intention of telling him that he deserves the greatest facial expressions I've ever seen, and how I consider volume 16 to be a masterpiece of dark comedy. Unfortunately, my knowledge of Japanese basically extends to informing someone of how awesome the fish at their hot spring is, so that idea went out the window rather quickly. Point is, *Excel Saga* is the finest comic I've ever had the pleasure of reading, eastern or western, comedic or otherwise. Thank you, Viz, for your superb translation and localization of this overlooked gem, one that seemingly everyone wrote off due to thinking it was similar to the anime. You have actually made my life better by doing so.

Well!! Palazzo,
Chris Bostic

Dear Chris,

At the risk of sounding like a member of Spinal Tap, I never quite understood the controversy over *Excel Saga* vol. 15's cover—there's actually an interesting story behind the effric, but in the words of Mel Brooks, I don't think I'll tell it. ^.^ I'm intrigued to hear about your walking around in-cards while eating carrots method, as (speaking of old cartoons) that's how Bugs Bunny did things. If Rikdo's approach in writing *Excel Saga* has been an inspiration to you as a writer, I'm very glad to hear it.

And I'm also very glad to hear that *Excel Saga* has helped you with your personal happiness, as that's the most important thing of all. I see that (as you started reading the manga in 2007) you were a relatively late arrival to the series, which I particularly appreciate. When Viz first began running *Excel Saga* ten years ago (!) the anime was still in mid-release on DVD from A.D. Vision (and then: still was a company known as A.D. Vision—although they're still going strong under new names, among them the aforementioned Sentai Filmworks). Naturally, most of the original readers of the manga were attracted to it because the anime was a then-current release, and the two were dimly cross promoted.

But of course, eventually the anime was older news, and midway through the manga we had caught up with the Japanese release, meaning we had to then miss it at the pace of the Japanese volumes. Under such circumstances, it's hard to attract (or, perhaps, keep) readers, especially as *Excel Saga* has not exactly been known for its rapid plot development—for a long time, little substantial plot development seemed to happen at all. Of course, that's keeping in with the manga's style of humor, as it has always presented the struggles between Kabapu and il Palazzo as having little meaning or relevance to the real world—whether their conflict takes the form of business, politics, or people in funny suits duking it out in the streets, nobody takes it that seriously or even seems to realize

that. I'm not sure why the art looks lower-res on this page; possibly it's a deliberate effect, since in the original tankobon, the dialogue in the word balloons was normal resolution.

Well, the notes seem a little short this time, but we have an honest-to-Lord il Palazzo fan letter to pick up the slack! Our faithful reader writes:

Dearest OGH and all other beautiful people at Viz Media,

Thank you for continuing (and, presumably, finishing) your absolutely genius English adaptation of *Excel Saga*. I firmly believe that any other publisher would have dropped this series the instant they saw volume 15's cover art, this, of course, would have been downright criminal, as then I would have never gotten to see Doctor Kabapu ejaculate champagne all over his office in what will no doubt go down in history as the greatest scene in all manga.

I like to fancy myself a writer. By which, I mean to say that I enjoy scribbling words down on pieces of paper, or typing words into a computer that will later scribe them onto paper for me using that magic device known as a "printer." Sometimes I walk around talking into a tape recorder while eating carrots; what an intriguing process it is! I love writing dialogue-based comedy that is simultaneously subtle and ridiculous, often witty but just as often lowbrow. *Excel Saga* is inspiring in that it manages to have the exact same sense of humor I do, in spite of being written by a completely different person. As such, it's easily one of the funniest things I've ever read, and also one of the biggest influences upon my own work.

In fact, no other work of fiction has had such a profound impact on my life as *Excel Saga*. This may sound a bit silly to you, largely because it is, but it is also the indisputable truth. Reading this series changed my life for the better. While I have no clear idea as to how or why, the *Excel* manga has consistently helped me cope with the depression and self-loathing that —up until very recently—experienced on a daily basis. For reference, I started reading it back in early 2007, so that's a lot of depression and self-loathing.

It would not be inaccurate to say that this manga is my favorite comedy—not just because I find it inspiring in various ways, but also because it's simply fantastic. At its best, every joke is on point to the extent of causing multiple big laughs per chapter, and even the few below-par installments feature characters that are far more lovable than they should be. Indeed, while characters such as Elgale and Kabapu have very little in the way of redeeming qualities, it's difficult not to like them due to Rikdo's great writing. While I do take issue with his pacing at times, the excellent development he gives nearly every member of the cast is worth the slow and often incomprehensible storytelling.

Excel Saga

there's something to take seriously (*Excel Saga* reminds me of *The Venture Bros.*, in that respect, where the "civilian" world doesn't seem to care much about the goings-on of its heroes and villains).

This may be a fundamental reason why *Excel Saga* lacks a larger audience among manga fans. Although it has many of the things people might want from manga (action, humor, attractive characters), its mood is adult and cynical rather than adolescent and sincere. That isn't to put down adolescent sincerity, which is one of the strengths of manga, and a reason why people read it—that sincerity has a power and an appeal. But the characters in *Excel Saga* aren't like that: they are detached from the conflict in which they find themselves in the same way that adults cut in the working world may be detached from their jobs. It doesn't really belong to them, and it doesn't really mean anything to them. The ACROSS girls have kept going for a long time on the power of delusion, whereas the Dept. of Environmental Security has never believed in their jobs (except for Iwata, who believed in it for the same reason he always screwed things up: i.e., he's an idiot). What many of the characters in *Excel Saga* have come to care about is not their cause, but the other characters, including those (such as Iwata and Nishiki) whose very beings have been used as tools in the conflict, or those (such as "Chihaya" and "Teriha") who are ostensibly the "enemy." The true believer, of course, remains Excel, who was ready to strike the image of her beloved Lord when he abandoned his view of the world and mission to conquer it...

I agree that vol. 16 is one of the best in the series, as it was a great mix of humor and plot development, with the rapid decay of Dr. Kabapa, the new (if brief) corporate high life of ILL, and the beginning of "Teriha's" time with Umi. There was still time for eating contests with Ms. Menager and even a little *Genshiken* interlude with cosplay and doujinshi (funny also because, getting back to the earlier point, Excel actually takes costumed conquest seriously and thus couldn't wear her *Pretty Cure* outfit in good conscience, even if she couldn't quite explain why).

Once again, thank you very much for reading, and for your letter! For all those who weren't able to get in their letters and fan art for this volume, don't worry, as there are still many chances ahead, and by many chances. I mean of course one chance! See you in vol. 27, the conclusion of the aptly-named *Excel Saga*!

—CGH

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